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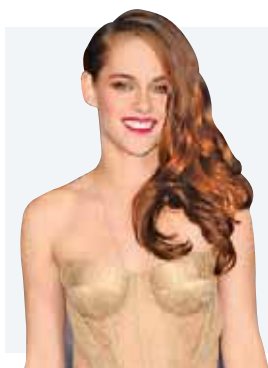


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Undressed for success

Kristen Stewart joins a long list of Hollywood style-setters who bare a little more than we wanted to see. Ladies, better not try this look at the office PAGE 49

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Will Sally Ann weather the storm?

Fraud investigation.

Torontonians react to news of \$2M toy theft

With Christmas looming, a familiar jingle filled the entrance of the Eaton Centre on Wednesday, as a pair of Salvation Army volunteers rang their bells to encourage passersby to spare a coin for charity.

"Slow day," said one volunteer, gesturing toward the sig-

nature red kettle filled with a few bills and coins at her side. "It's been a bad day."

And not just because of the meagre collection in the pot. The Salvation Army found itself in an uncomfortable position on Wednesday as news emerged that it had been bilked of more than \$2-million in toys in what

police have described as a "sophisticated" fraud.

How the Salvation Army will weather the storm allegedly brought on by someone within the organization remains to be seen. Officials say the donations theft will not affect needy children, but news that someone had stolen children's toys angered some Toronto residents.

"I'm annoyed and upset. I shouldn't be getting upset, but this is disturbing," said Gene Lara, head of the St. James

Town Safety Committee who for five years has distributed Salvation Army Christmas toys to thousands of needy families.

"It is very sad ... why would someone do that?" added Vicky Huliganda, whose two sons received Salvation Army gifts when they were kids.

As to how the fraud will affect Salvation

Army donations, opinions are divided.

Stéphane Côté, a psychologist at the U of T's Rotman School of Management, described the fraud as "quite an egregious injustice" that could harm its donor base. Donors expect "fairness," he said, and some may choose to take their money elsewhere.

"There's not much effort required on the part of the donor to change their mind on (whom) they

Big hearts

- Two toymakers will donate toys to the charity. Spin Master will contribute \$100,000 worth of toys and Hasbro plans to chip in \$250,000 in goods, the companies say.

donate to," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 8

Will Gaza ceasefire last?

That was the question as Israel and Hamas agreed to stop the fighting PAGE 19

Safety net denied

A woman whose son died in a murder-suicide has been told she's too young to qualify for survivor benefits PAGE 3

O Christmas tree ornament

Your glamorous sheen delights us and punches up our holiday decor PAGE 66



MAYOR'S EAGLES HEADING TO THE BIG DANCE

Coach Rob Ford is lifted by his jubilant team on Wednesday after their victory in the Metro Bowl semifinal at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke. The Don Bosco Eagles beat St. Andrews 27-11. The Eagles will battle Newmarket's Huron Heights Warriors in the final on Nov. 27. The Metro Bowl is the championship game for secondary-school football teams in the GTA. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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A woman with long, wavy brown hair is standing in front of a window with sheer white curtains. She is wearing a two-piece sparkly, multi-colored bra and matching high-cut underwear. She is holding a white, long-sleeved garment in her left hand. The lighting is bright, coming from the window, creating a soft glow on her face and hair.

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2014 candidacy?

Chow 'is no Jack Layton,' says Doug Ford

Polls may say Olivia Chow has the best chance of toppling Mayor Rob Ford in the next civic election, but the mayor's brother says she's "no Jack Layton."

Chow, the Member of Parliament for Toronto's Trinity-Spadina riding, has said she is being urged to run by many members of the public and is listening to them



Coun. Doug Ford

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE but has not made any decision. Asked Wednesday about a possible Chow candidacy in 2014, Councilor Doug Ford said Layton's widow "makes (former mayor) David Miller look like a fiscal conservative ... Olivia Chow is no Jack Layton and if (voters) want tax-and-spend government, they're going to elect Olivia Chow. it's very simple."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No 2,300-hectare quarry

There is joy in Melancthon

The people in Melancthon Township heard that the plan for a so-called mega quarry, which many have been fighting for years, was dropped.

The Highland Companies abandoned its application to dig a massive limestone quarry in this fertile farming area just north of Orangeville, citing a lack of government and community support. The company, Ontario's largest potato producer, had the backing on the project of a Boston-based hedge fund worth more than \$20 billion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tanya Brancalion, the woman whose son Noah was killed by his father in a murder-suicide this fall, looks up to the Christmas tree in her living room that's decorated with ornaments created by her son. Brancalion is being denied the few hundred dollars per month given to widows under the Canada Pension Plan Survivors Pension. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No widow's pension for grieving mother

No safety net. Tanya Brancalion, who lost her son in a murder-suicide, is too young to qualify without a dependant

Tanya Brancalion is 34, not 35.

If she were just a year older, the grieving mother whose six-year-old son Noah was killed by his father in a September murder-suicide, would qualify for an ongoing survivor's pension.

She's been denied because she now also lacks the other factor that would qualify her for a couple of hundred dollars each month: A dependant child.

"I think that when somebody goes through something as horrific as losing their family, that the government that they

Survivor benefits

The requirements include being 35 or older at the time of the contributor's death. Or, if younger than 35, having at least one dependent child. Noah was Brancalion's only child.

- To qualify for the bene-

fits, she would need to be considered disabled or be 65 years and one month old, according to the letter.

- Brancalion appealed the decision and was denied again.

pay taxes to should have some kind of compassion," Brancalion said Tuesday.

"It's discriminatory and it's arbitrary," she says of the age eligibility rule enshrined in the original Canada Pension Plan act more than four decades ago.

In September, while Brancalion was away at a girlfriend's cottage for the weekend, her husband, Wojciech Kosalka, 43,

killed their son Noah and then himself at the family's Milton home.

After the deaths, Brancalion applied for CPP survivor benefits. She received a \$2,500 death benefit, paid in one lump sum. But in response to her application for a monthly survivor's pension, paid to the surviving spouse or common-law partner of a deceased contributor, she

got a letter saying she didn't meet the eligibility requirements.

"You pay into your Canadian pension for situations like this. If I'm not entitled to my husband's Canadian pension, who is?" she asks.

In a written statement Tuesday, Human Resource and Skills Development Canada, the federal department responsible for the plan, said it was unable to comment on individual cases.

"The rationale is that younger survivors would be able to enter or return to the workforce and thus become self-supporting. On the other hand, it is recognized that older individuals, persons with disabilities and those with young children at home have a more difficult time achieving self-sufficiency," the statement reads in part.

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1 NEWS

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TTC OK's 5-cent fare hike. Increase affects tokens, passes, not \$3 cash fare



TTC chair Karen Stintz says riders may see another price hike in 2014.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's official. The Toronto Transit Commission has approved a 5-cent increase on tokens, to \$2.65, in the new year.

And TTC chair Karen Stintz warns riders to expect the same kind of inflationary-based price hike again in 2014.

Cash fares will remain at \$3 on Jan 1. But other fares will go up, including a \$2.50 rise in the price of a monthly Metropass, to \$128.50.

It's the second year in a row transit fares have risen. Last year, the TTC hiked prices 10 cents.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lowest subsidy in N.A.

- At the monthly commission meeting, TTCriders, a group representing transit users, argued that hiking fares penalizes transit riders for a service that benefits the entire city.
- The TTC receives a lower government subsidy on fares than any transit system in North America, the group argues. As ridership continues to climb, the city's TTC subsidy has actually dropped since 2009.
- "As a result, fares keep going up while service levels — at best — stay the same," said a statement from TTCriders.

Human rights. G20 activist launches complaint about jail discrimination

A jailed G20 activist alleges that mental disabilities, physical challenges, citizenship, poverty and skin colour are unfairly confining some inmates of the Vanier Centre for Women to maximum security.

Amanda Hiscocks also maintains that her political beliefs as an anarchist and anti-capitalist led to discrimination.

The charges, to be filed Thursday, come in an application to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal. They target the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and the provincial prison in Milton.

In an exclusive interview Wednesday, she said the system of classification for incoming inmates is not only "stacked" against members of society who are already marginalized but is not transparent. Prisoners have no idea why they are jailed in maximum security, and have no way to appeal their classification.

"We deserve the right to know the reason for our security designation, and the right to



Amanda Hiscocks, 37, of Guelph, maintains that her political beliefs as an anarchist and anti-capitalist led to discrimination.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

challenge it under a fair grievance process," she said, adding that in her seven months in max, she repeatedly tried to learn why she was there.

Hiscocks, one of six "ring-leaders" who pleaded guilty to charges of counselling to obstruct police and counselling to commit mischief arising from the 2010 G20 protests in Toronto, entered Vanier in January. In August she was reassigned to medium-security.

"The difference between

maximum and medium security is huge," she said. "The guards are much more relaxed in medium-security. Everything is much more relaxed."

In medium-security, inmates have more and better programs, books, outdoor yards and activities. There is more privacy, as prisoners have individual cells to which they can retreat. In max, they are locked in or locked out all day.

"By refusing to provide reasons for their security classification decisions, the Respondents are insulating their discriminatory practices from review, and are denying inmates held in maximum security the right to know whether discrimination was a factor in their security classification designation," her application to the human rights commission charges.

When called for comment, Vanier deputy superintendent Pam Elliott referred Torstar News Services to ministry spokesperson Greg Flood. He could not supply answers to emailed questions in time for deadline. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alleged Twitter harassment leads to criminal charges for Toronto man

Tweet talk. Online exchange puts heat on local snow poetry and graffiti artist



JESSICA SMITH

jessica.smith@metronews.ca

A man with a reputation on Twitter for trolling Toronto feminists has been arrested for criminal harassment.

Police charged Gregory Alan Elliott, a 52-year-old man who tweets with the handle @greg_a_elliott, with criminal harassment and breaking a peace bond because of his online behaviour, officers said Wednesday.

Stephanie Guthrie, the complainant, said she met with Elliott in person last spring when she was organizing for her group Women in Toronto Politics (#WiT-Opoli) events, and he contacted her on Twitter offering to design a poster.

"We met. I got a bad vibe from him," she said. "Over the next couple of days, I noticed he was making a lot of unsolicited sexual comments to women on Twitter."

When she declined his offer to help with her event, he started making "Twitter jabs" at her. Guthrie claims Elliott continued to make sexual comments online, including toward women she knows.

"So we confronted him about it and said, 'We're seeing a lot of you sexually harassing women on Twitter. Could you please stop?'" she said.

At that point, Guthrie alleges the harassment started. He would tweet



Gregory Alan Elliott is seen in this combination photo. POLICE HANDOUT

negative things about her, called her a bully, spread false rumours about her organization and invented the hashtag #fascistfeminists to describe her and her colleagues, she alleged. She and other women asked him over Twitter to stop contacting them, but the Tweets continued, she said.

"The only recourse was contacting the police," she said.

Guthrie was worried about him approaching her offline. "When somebody is basically stalking you on the Internet, you feel trapped and painted into a corner, and that's how I felt," she said.

"I've already had quite a number of people suggest that I'm doing this as some kind of activist publicity stunt and I need to be very clear that that has absolutely nothing to do with this. I reported him because I was fearing for my personal safety and he was keeping me up at night," she said.

Guthrie said one of the reasons she is speaking out about what happened is to remind people that their online lives are connected to their offline lives.

Offline, Elliott does "Snoetry" (snow poetry) and graffiti with hearts and positive or uplifting messa-



ges, which he often Tweets about.

"He seems to have this really compartmentalized idea of, 'I am one person in real life, on Twitter I am a different person' and he really sees that his graffiti is one thing that he does and the other stuff is totally unrelated," said Guthrie. "If there's anything people should take away from this, it is that the things you do online are you."

Feminist Myrna Waldron got into a Twitter confrontation with Elliott the day before he was arrested and contacted police on Twitter Wednesday to report what happened.

"I'd said something disparaging about men's rights activists — I tend to vent a lot on Twitter — and someone retweeted it," she said. "Then he started contacting me saying I don't understand MRAs, I hate men, that I'm an idiot. It went on and on."

Waldron had heard about him before and fought with him on Twitter for an hour and then blocked him.

"He just seemed needlessly angry. I'll admit I was making fun of him back, because I felt that he was being way too ridiculous about what happened," she said.

Quoted

"I'd said something disparaging about men's rights activists — I tend to vent a lot on Twitter — and someone retweeted it. Then he started contacting me, saying I don't understand MRAs, I hate men, that I'm an idiot. It went on and on."

Myrna Waldron

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Bedbug battles: Is a fungus the solution?

Parasites. Ryerson University currently dealing with outbreak

As bedbugs continue their blood-sucking scourge on Toronto — currently targeting Ryerson University residences — a new U.S. study shows that natural fungus is an effective way of killing the critters.

There are eight confirmed cases of the tiny critters at Ryerson, with most students living at the International Living and Learning Centre (ILLC) and a few in the Pitman Hall residence.

"The rooms are being carefully treated by pest-control experts right now," said Chad Nuttall, manager of Student Housing Services at the university. "They will inspect and re-inspect the rooms until they are bedbug-free."

Affected students have been relocated to a temporary space in the ILLC while their rooms are treated, which usually takes about two weeks but can be longer depending on the severity of the situation.

New research could end the battle against bedbugs. Accord-

Exposure time

Researchers must test exposure times and do more field work before this biopesticide hits the market. But the timing is ripe because there's been a resurgence in bedbug infestations.

- In Toronto, it's difficult to get a handle on how widespread the problem is and if it's growing because different departments and agencies deal with bedbugs.

ing to entomologists at Penn State University, the parasites have met their match in a fungus called *Beauveria bassiana*, which grows naturally in soils and causes disease in insects.

As part of the study, researchers took paper and cotton jersey, commonly used in bed sheets. On one set they sprayed fungal spores and on the other blank oil. After the surfaces were dry, bedbugs were added for one hour.

All the bugs exposed to the biopesticide died within five days. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Role reversal: Owens completes egg-ceptional pass to Ray

The Toronto Argonauts' most outstanding player nominee, Chad Owens, left, passes the eggs to Argos quarterback Ricky Ray at the Eastern Team Media Breakfast at the Toronto Hilton Hotel inside Ruth's Chris Steak House on Wednesday. Owens says he had a vision in his off-season back home in Hawaii — he saw the Argos in the Grey Cup. For more on the Grey Cup, see page 79. **RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Jury vetting

Man's murder conviction nixed

A man accused of kidnapping and slitting a woman's throat has had his murder conviction quashed because

prosecutors and police acted improperly when it came to jury selection at his trial.

In Clare Spiers' 2007 trial, background checks were done on potential jurors in direct violation of Ontario government policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brampton students

Tweets spell trouble for nine

Nine Brampton students were told to stay home from school on Wednesday after allegedly using Twitter to make

inappropriate comments about teachers.

An official with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board says the St. Marguerite D'youville students have not been suspended, but will face other consequences.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Agnes Grossmann HANDOUT

Globetrotting conductor brings Taiwan to Toronto

Agnes Grossmann took a rare break last week to visit her home in Montreal, overlooking the St. Lawrence River.

The globetrotting conductor, who spends most of her time in Asia these days, is on tour in Canada with the Tai-

wan National Choir.

While she enjoyed the view of Pont Champlain outside her window, the choir was on a sightseeing trip to Niagara Falls. Then it was off to performances in Quebec City and Ottawa before arriving in Toronto on Friday at Koerner

Hall.

"Koerner Hall is a jewel," says Grossmann, whose choir performs in Taipei in a building "that resembles a temple."

She accepted the job of music director of the Taiwan National Choir in 2006 after previous guest appearances

with the promise that she would get to travel and work with other choirs and orchestras.

"My life is lots of traveling," says the Vienna-born Grossmann, who returns to Japan for a gig in December, where it is a national tradition

to perform Beethoven's 9th Symphony. "I hope to do more in Europe."

The program for the Toronto performance includes compositions by Anton Bruckner, Robert Schumann, Johannes Brahms and some Taiwanese folk songs. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Alleged theft of 100,000 toys 'targeted': Sally Ann

Salvation Army. The charitable organization calls organized plot to steal toys over past two years 'troubling'

The Salvation Army believes 100,000 toys were stolen from its Toronto warehouse over the past two years in a "targeted," strategic plot to defraud the charity.

Police have been investigating the alleged theft, estimated to be worth about \$2 million, since late September, but have not made any arrests.

The news comes as the Salvation Army is preparing to start its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, where volunteers solicit donations in high-traffic areas like shopping malls and on the street.

About 140,000 toys are distributed to families in need each holiday season from the Toronto warehouse, but spokesman John Murray said at a news conference Wednesday that no one will go without.

"I can assure you that anyone in need this Christmas will be helped by the Salvation Army," he said.

"To those Canadians who

routinely and generously give to the Salvation Army I would appeal to you this afternoon to not lose confidence in the work of the Salvation Army and the work that we do on your behalf in Canadian cities."

A whistleblower within the organization tipped the Salvation Army off a few months ago and internal auditors made the "troubling" discovery, Murray said.

Executive director David Rennie was then fired. No criminal charges have been laid.

Meanwhile, the executive director at the Salvation Army in Ottawa has been fired after auditors discovered \$250,000 has gone missing. Perry Rowe had been with the charity's Booth Centre for eight years.

Police have not yet determined what happened to the toys at the Toronto warehouse. Murray said the Salvation Army believes no other locations have been hit with alleged thefts.

"This is an isolated situation," he said. "We believe that it's been very specific. It's been targeted. It's been very strategic in the way that it was put together. It was thought out."

The warehouse has video surveillance and security sys-



Maj. John Murray of the Salvation Army attends a news conference at the Railside Road food and toy distribution centre in Toronto on Wednesday after discussing the alleged theft of several million dollars worth of items. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

tems, but the Salvation Army has retained KPMG to do an audit to determine what other checks and balances can be put in place.

The security system is good, so the alleged theft seems that when there is a will, there is a way, Murray said.

"If an individual wants to

defraud an organization there are ways and means to do that," he said.

The hearts of people at the Salvation Army go out to whoever committed the alleged theft, but if people have problems in their lives they should instead come to the organization for help, Murray said.

"I also would remind people that when you're stealing from an organization like the Salvation Army, you're stealing from those people who the Salvation Army helps every day and in Canada that's 1.8 million Canadians in 400 Canadian communities."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Insurance. Are higher premiums for drivers 80+ fair?

Whether an insurance company can charge more for drivers over the age of 80 is the subject of a two-day human-rights hearing slated to start Thursday in a case that could affect thousands of Ontario seniors.

In his complaint, Denis Olorenshaw argues that setting higher premiums for drivers based on their plus-80 status amounts to age discrimination that can't be justified.

"They don't have the legal basis ... for increasing a premium for an 80-year-old driver," Olorenshaw said in an interview Wednesday. "It's serious business."

Olorenshaw, 92, of Toronto, launched his complaint after he began shopping around for auto insurance in 2009.

Both he and his daughter had identical Toyotas purchased at the same time and lived in the same condominium. However, his daughter, then aged 62, was given a lower quote from the brokerage company Atrons-Counsel on behalf of Western Assurance. "There was a \$250 difference in the premiums," Olorenshaw said. "I didn't buy it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tensions rise between feds, First Nations over bill



Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, right, and Phyllis Sutherland of the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal Conservatives are pushing through more First Nations legislation that does not have the support of chiefs, despite growing tension between Ottawa and native leaders.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Wednesday his party is forcing a vote to shut down debate on a financial transparency bill that will require First Nations chiefs and

councillors to publish their salaries and expenses.

The move means the bill will pass the House of Commons by the end of this week — over the objections of chiefs as well as the federal NDP and Liberals. Various forms of the bill have been around for three years, stalled by electoral cycles and opposition from the Assembly of First Nations.

"It's unfortunate that we have to take this measure," Duncan told a news conference. "Continued obstruction by the NDP and Liberals has made it clear that this is the only way this important bill will be passed."

Duncan said that while the chiefs' organization may not support the legislation, it is in keeping with resolutions

passed by the AFN and is widely favoured by grassroots First Nations.

But it's only one of several pieces of legislation that the Conservatives have pushed aggressively through the Commons over the objections of the AFN, leading to deterioration in the relationship between Conservative and First Nations leaders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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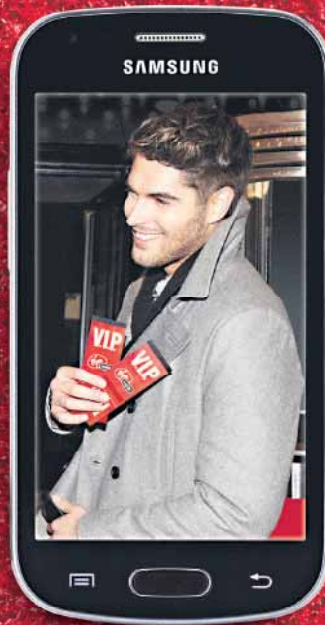
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Budget watchdog takes Tories to court

Matter of jurisdiction.

Budget officer taking on creators of his job over withheld figures

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday

filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that

Obstruction?

"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair on the Conservative government

government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and im-

pacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



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\$250. Fee may vary depending upon type of property and location. For 2.99%, 3 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.04%**. For 3.59%, 7 year fixed rate offer, APR is **3.61%**.
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Charity. Patrick Stewart, Morgan Freeman want you to wait for the beep

Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing-voice-mail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

All it takes is \$299 US and some luck.

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to 9, a limited number of 20-second-long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of



Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

the PG variety.

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award-winner of The Mary Tyler Moore Show and Lou Grant, dreamed up the fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner. "I'll probably say, 'What are you wearing?' Or, 'Take it off.' Something like that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spills and shills

Liberal critic calls Tories lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural-resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home.

His statements capped a day in which Liberals scrambled to contain the damage from his remarks, which came just days before a byelection in Calgary, where the Liberals have high hopes for an upset.

"I would like to unreservedly and unequivocally apologize for comments which I made with respect to parliamentary colleagues from the province of Alberta," said McGuinty, who is the brother of Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Conservatives, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pounced on McGuinty's comments, accusing the Liberals of long-standing bias against Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online privacy

Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The world's biggest social-media company said in a blog post Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which is triggered only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes quantity of responses over quality of discussion. Users tend to leave one or two-word comments objecting to changes instead of more in-depth responses.

As part of the 2009 policy, users' votes only count if more than 30 per cent of all Facebook's active users partake. That did not happen during either of the two times users voted and it's unlikely that it will now, given that more than 300 million people would have to participate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An aerial shot of the North Pole shows the light of 1,854,237,899 Kobo Glos ready to be tucked under every tree on Christmas Eve.

Photo courtesy of Capt. Dave Mottola — Space Station.

SOURCE OF MYSTERIOUS NORTH POLE GLOW REVEALED

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG READERS

Noëlle Johnson
Holiday Happenings

All eyes were on the North Pole earlier this week when a mysterious light began emanating from the heart of Santa's Village. Speculation has mounted, leading to rumours about Santa's well being and a possible Alien invasion. Scientists have been baffled; astronomers were completely stumped.

But a well-timed message from Santa's Village HQ tells us not to fear. No Grinch or Martian has taken over Santa's workshop. The truth is actually quite magical. As the fate of Christmas 2012 seemed to lie in the balance, elves have been developing a magical eReader designed to light up the holiday season.

The new eReader is called Kobo Glo and the source of its magic power lies in its revolutionary ComfortLight technology. "ComfortLight is an incredibly even, adjustable front-light for reading day or night," says Santa.

"Rudolph has been a huge inspiration. He knows first-hand how important a built-in light is late at night, and how fathers enjoy reading bedtime stories to their kids. That's why Rudolph added the perfect touch of magic to each Kobo Glo. Now, thanks to ComfortLight, we can bring the joy of comfortable reading to every reader any time, especially on those long winter nights."

Santa calls Kobo Glo a fully portable library. How'd they do it? He explains: "Kobo Glo has built-in storage for up to 1,000 eBooks with the option to expand up to 30,000 with Micro SD cards. Running out of eBooks is something we all want to avoid.

"That's why each Kobo Glo is linked directly to the Kobo eBookstore for easy access to over 3 million eBooks. And there's something for everyone, from history buffs to fiction fanatics and everyone in between."

And, from the sounds of it, the 6-inch XGA high-res Pearl E Ink touchscreen was designed to read beautifully in any lighting condition.

"Our goal was to create the perfect reading experience, while giving readers control of their own experience. They can adjust the brightness of ComfortLight, as well as choose from 8 font styles in 24 sizes with a tap," says Santa. "And with the magic of E Ink, each word is crisp

and clear (and 28% sharper than before*), even in the brightest sunlight."

Christmas is coming up, so you can expect the North Pole Glow to get brighter as Santa's elves build eReaders for readers around the world. Look for one under your tree this Christmas.

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Last gunman from Mumbai attacks executed in secrecy

26-11. Hanging sparks celebrations for some while offering others hollow closure

India executed the lone surviving gunman from the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks early Wednesday, four years after Pakistani gunmen blazed through India's financial capital, killing 166 people over three days and throwing relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours into a tailspin.

Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, a Pakistani citizen, was hung in secrecy at a jail in Pune, a city near Mumbai, after Indian President Pranab Mukherjee rejected his plea for clemency.

News of the execution was widely cheered in India, with political parties organizing public celebrations and some people setting off firecrack-



An activist sets a poster of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab ablaze. RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ers. But for those more deeply touched by the events of 26-11, as the attack is known in India, the hanging offered only a partial catharsis.

"This is an incomplete justice as the masterminds and main handlers of 26-11 are still absconding," said Kavita Karkare, the widow of Hemant Karkare, the chief of Mumbai's anti-terrorism squad who was killed while pursuing Kasab. "They should also be hanged."

Indian officials accuse Pak-

istan's intelligence agency of working with the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba to plan the attack — an allegation Islamabad denies.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since they were carved out of British India in 1947, suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack.

Since 2011, the two countries have rekindled the peace talks, but New Delhi's frustration with Pakistan's failure to bring those responsible for the attack to justice has complicated those efforts.

The attacks were also a major embarrassment for India's security establishment, which failed to stop a small group of gunmen who entered Mumbai on a dinghy from running roughshod over the police and elite security forces for three days.

Some in India felt Kasab should have been hanged publicly. Others complained that



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party dance in Mumbai on Wednesday as they celebrate the news of Mohammed Ajmal Kasab's execution. RAFIG MAGBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recounting the carnage

Kasab was one of nine gunmen who entered Mumbai on Nov. 26, 2008, killing 166.

- **The attack.** Armed with phones, grenades and automatic weapons the gunmen fanned out across the city targeting luxury hotels, a Jewish centre, a restaurant and a crowded train station.

- **Infamous gunman.** A photo of Kasab striding through Mumbai's train station with rifle in hand became an iconic image of the siege.

- **Brought to justice.** An Indian judge sentenced Kasab to death in May 2010 for war against India, murder, terrorism and other charges.

the government had spent too much money on the care and feeding of a vilified criminal and said that for justice to be done, the attack's masterminds — not just their foot soldier — must be punished.

Mukesh Agarwal, who was shot in his right arm during the attack, called Kasab's execution "the best possible gift" from the Indian government. But he said "instead of secretly hanging him, the government should have hanged him publicly." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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U.S. Drought worsens after brief improvement: Report

The worst U.S. drought in decades has deepened again after more than a month of encouraging reports of slowly improving conditions, a drought-tracking consortium said Wednesday, as scientists struggled for an explanation other than a simple lack of rain.

While more than half of the continental U.S. has been in a drought since summer, rain storms had appeared to be easing the situation week by week since late September. But that promising run ended with Wednesday's weekly U.S. Drought Monitor report, which showed increases in the portion of the country in drought and the severity of it.

The report showed that 60.1 per cent of the lower 48 states were in some form of drought as of Tuesday, up from 58.8 per

Wheat worries

- After a summer in which farmers watched helplessly as their corn dried up in the heat and their soybeans became stunted, many are now worrying about their winter wheat. It has come up at a rate on par with non-drought years, but the quality of the crop doesn't look good, according to officials.

cent the previous week. The amount of land in extreme or exceptional drought — the two worst classifications — increased from 18.3 per cent to 19.04 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Persian Gulf

Repairs delay U.S. carrier

The U.S. navy says it will temporarily shrink its aircraft-carrier presence in the Persian Gulf area from two to one this winter because of a mechanical problem with the

USS Nimitz, a carrier based in Washington state.

Officials said Wednesday the Nimitz, which had been scheduled to deploy to the region in January to relieve the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, will put off its journey until the summer in order to complete repairs to its propulsion system. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Once-promising political career ends with resignation

U.S. Congress.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. cites health issues amid treatment for bipolar disorder, federal ethics investigation

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., a once-rising political star who has been on a months-long mysterious medical leave for bipolar disorder while facing separate federal investigations, resigned from Congress Wednesday, citing his health problems.

Jackson's resignation, just two weeks after voters re-elected him to a ninth full term, comes amid a House Ethics Committee investigation into his dealings with imprisoned ex-Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich and reports of a new federal probe into possible misuse of campaign money.

In his resignation letter to House Speaker John Boehner, Jackson admits his "share of mistakes" and, for the first time, publicly acknowledges that he is the subject of an on-



U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., seen addressing the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo. on Aug. 25, 2008, cites health issues for his departure from Congress and says he hopes he is remembered on the balance of his work.
CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

going federal investigation.

"I am aware of the ongoing federal investigation into my activities, and I am doing my best to address the situation responsibly, co-operate with the investigators, accept responsibility for my mistakes," he wrote.

Jackson added: "They are my mistakes and mine alone."

Jackson, 47, disappeared in

June, and it was later revealed that he was being treated at the Mayo Clinic for bipolar disorder and gastrointestinal issues. He returned to his Washington home in September but went back to the clinic the next month, with his father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, saying his son had not yet "regained his balance."

Attempts by The Associated

Press to locate Jackson were unsuccessful Wednesday, and family members either declined to comment or could not be reached.

Jackson took office in 1995 after winning a special election. Voters in the district have said Jackson's family name and attention to local issues have been the reasons for their support. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Chinese blogger. Police not amused over tweet about Communist Party

Hundreds of Chinese Internet users are rallying around a Beijing blogger who has been detained by police after posting a joke on Twitter about the pivotal Communist Party congress.

Chinese authorities have been especially sensitive to any perceived dissent about the party meeting, which closed last week after ushering in a new generation of leaders. Ahead of the event, police sent activists out of Beijing and rounded up the hundreds of people who tried to draw the attention of central authorities to their grievances against local governments.

Zhai Xiaobing's Nov. 5 tweet suggested the next movie in the Final Destination horror franchise would be about the Great Hall of the People collapsing on party delegates.

The tweet said, "An earth-shaking debut will be seen at the global premiere on Nov. 8!" The week-long congress began Nov. 8.

After Zhai's Twitter account fell silent for a few days, Liu Yanping, a friend of

New precedent

- A Miyun county police officer said Zhai Xiaobing was being investigated for "spreading terrorist information." The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.
- More than 400 people have signed an online petition calling on police to release him — and to have more of a sense of humour.
- A rights group said Zhai's case could be seen as a test of whether China's incoming leaders will continue a steady crackdown authorities have imposed on the country's small community of activists, dissidents and lawyers in recent years.

his, grew worried and visited his home in Miyun county in Beijing's northeastern suburbs. There, his family members told Liu that Miyun county police had taken Zhai away on Nov. 7 and seized his computer, Liu said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Students protest education cuts in England

Protesters march beside a line of police officers during a demonstration against education cuts, tuition increases and austerity by the Houses of Parliament on Wednesday in London. The march was organized by the National Union of Students and is the first national student protest since a series of violent protests against tuition fees two years ago. WARRICK PAGE/GETTY IMAGES

France cyber attack

U.S. denies hacking charges

The U.S. Embassy in Paris has "categorically" denied claims in French magazine L'Express that the U.S. government was behind a worm that attacked computers in the French president's palace.

Hackers masquerading as Facebook friends of Elysee Palace employees duped them into giving up internal passcodes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last dance

Groom falls on beer glass, dies

A Brazilian bridegroom bled to death at his wedding reception when he tripped and fell on an empty glass of beer on Monday. Navy sergeant Fabio Jefferson dos Santos Maciel was dancing with one of the bridesmaids when he lost his balance and fell, shattering the glass he was carrying in his left pants pocket. A piece of glass severed his femoral vein, causing a massive loss of blood.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

The question. Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza. Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is Great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas mil-

Morsi's moment

The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi.

- **New role.** Appearances suggest that the man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name has finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

itant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohamed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas was announced. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird speaks out

Hamas and Israel? It's not complex

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel

and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird (pictured). "It's not a complex

issue," he said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter and Facebook go to war

Israel is using social media to fight back against a publicity pounding over its Gaza offensive.

It's furiously tweeting and posting Facebook updates from a "media bunker."

The instant they heard about a bus bombing in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, scores of tech-savvy youth in Israel's government media command centre in Jerusalem sprang into action.

They began flooding social media with updates and created a graphic exclaiming: "We didn't send in our ground troops, but they sent

in theirs!"

Hundreds of volunteers have produced and posted instant videos and graphics about the latest twists in the Gaza offensive from Israel's point of view.

Its Facebook site, Israel Under Fire, has gained more than 24,000 "likes" over the last week.

"They used to say the Elders of Zion controlled the media. Well, here are the youngsters of Zion who are running it," said Daniel Seaman, a chief at the Ministry of Public Diplomacy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Israel fought back with social media after this bus was bombed in Tel Aviv Wednesday. Twenty-seven people were hurt. ODED BALILY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top leader steps in

Ahmadinejad grilling blocked

Iran's supreme leader has stopped the country's parliament from grilling the president over the nation's plummeting currency and economic crisis, the official IRNA news agency reports.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanded that parliament drop its plan to grill President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, saying such a session would benefit Iran's enemies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex scandal fallout

Back at work ... under a cloud

Gen. John Allen, caught in the David Petraeus sex scandal, has returned to Kabul to resume his duties as U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

The Pentagon has said it's investigating potentially "inappropriate" correspondence between Allen and a woman linked to the former CIA chief. Petraeus resigned from his CIA post after acknowledging an extramarital affair with his biographer.

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Russian farmer hits back at corruption



A woman hands out copies of 'The Bribe' in Chuvashia, one of Russia's smallest provinces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'The Bribe' After his farm was stolen, Eduard Mochalov did jail time on false charges, set himself on fire in protest and now exposes dodgy officials in his monthly paper

When Eduard Mochalov tried to have the people who stole his cattle and pig farm brought to justice, he spent eight months in jail on charges he says were cooked up. He appealed to Vladimir Putin and even set himself on fire outside the Kremlin in protest, but still couldn't draw attention to his cause as his farm slowly fell into disrepair.

Now, Mochalov has found a new life as a crusading journalist investigating corruption in his native region, fueled by tips from disgruntled businessmen and government workers. Undeterred by a system where the law is selectively used to protect the powerful and crack down on critics, Mochalov has quickly earned cult status — not to mention the ire of countless local officials — throughout the province of Chuvashia.

Roughly once a month, he

Frustration

- To Mochalov's frustration no charges have been filed against the officials exposed in *The Bribe*. Russian officials frequently turn a blind eye to corruption stories in the press. *The Bribe* has nonetheless struck a chord in Chuvashia, whose president earlier this year proposed creating a blacklist of print media "that write untruths." Several officials mentioned in the newspaper have sued him for damaging their reputation.

publishes a free newspaper called *Vzyatka*, or *The Bribe*, which rails against what it calls "Chuvash kingpins" who steal from the province's budget. Headlines include "The governor of Chuvashia's family business" and "If nobody's been found guilty, that means they're already in power." The paper has proved so popular that with a print run of 20,000 he has trouble meeting demand.

While official corruption has been rife in Russia since czarist times, frustrations over

such graft have skyrocketed under president Putin's rule. Twenty-nine per cent of Russians believe that civil servants only care about using public funds to enrich themselves, a more than nine-fold increase since Putin took power in 2000, according to the Levada Center, an independent polling agency.

Corruption was a key motivation behind the unprecedented series of huge protests against Putin in Moscow last winter and spring, and remains a key rallying point for the opposition. Recently, the Kremlin has attempted to siphon off popular anger by launching a major crackdown on corruption, which has cost several high-level officials their jobs.

In Chuvashia, a sleepy rural region 650 kilometres east of Moscow, Mochalov devotes all his energy to campaigning against local corruption. That makes him unusual in Russia, especially in the provinces, where few journalists seriously investigate officials and those who do frequently face violent reprisal.

"If they brought charges based on my investigations, they'd have to arrest the entire provincial government," said Mochalov.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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There are several ways to reduce your mortgage debt and pay-off your mortgage faster. Some of these variables include: interest rates, payment frequency, amortization period, and extra payments. By managing these factors, you can get the most out of your mortgage, pay the least amount of interest possible and most importantly, becoming mortgage-free.

Choose a shorter amortization period: The longer the amortization period, the more

interest paid and the longer it will take to become mortgage-free. A shorter amortization period will make regular mortgage payments higher, as the number of mortgage payments is being reduced. If you're able to afford higher monthly payments, consider selecting a 15 to 20-year amortization period instead of a 25-year period.

Bi-weekly payments: Selecting biweekly mortgage payments instead of monthly or bi-monthly payments equals two additional payments each and every year. This may not seem like much, but over the course of your mortgage it adds up. For a small change, biweekly payments produce big results.

Additional payments: Paying more on your mortgage is always a good idea; particularly since any additional payment will go directly towards paying off the principle and not toward interest — which immediately and significantly reduces your amount owing. Look for mortgages that allow you to increase your monthly payment or pay in lump sums. Many mortgages allow this annually to a maximum of 20% of the principle. If you also need to build up your retirement fund then consider contributing all you are able to your RRSP and using your tax refund towards your mortgage for double the benefit.

Refinance: As mortgage rates fluctuate, consider refinancing your mortgage to lower

your payments and reduce the amount of interest. While refinancing, it may be a good time to reduce the amortization period and save even more.

Put it all Together. By combining the above techniques — shorter amortization, biweekly payments, additional payments and refinancing mortgage rates — you can save a significant amount in interest costs and cut your mortgage repayment.

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Milwaukee. Sikh temple gunman was drug-free during rampage: Report

A white supremacist with a history of alcohol problems was drug-free when he walked into a Sikh temple and fatally shot six people before killing himself, according to a toxicology report released Wednesday.

There were small amounts of alcohol in Wade Michael Page's heart, but because there was none in his bloodstream, the alcohol may have been produced after Page's body tissues began breaking down, a Milwaukee County pathologist said. Page's sister told authorities her brother didn't use drugs but had a history of alcohol problems.

The FBI issued a statement Tuesday saying they had con-

Hate crime

Page opened fire Aug. 5 at the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin.

- **Death toll.** He killed six and wounded four before a firefight with police where he eventually shot himself.

cluded its investigation and found no evidence to suggest Page had any help or was carrying out any directive from any white supremacist group, adding Page's motive may never be known. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Al-Qaida

Emails reveal no sailors watched bin Laden's burial

Internal emails among senior U.S. military officials reveal that no sailors watched Osama bin Laden's burial at sea from the USS Carl Vinson

and traditional Islamic procedures were followed during the ceremony.

The heavily blacked-out emails are the first public disclosure of information about the al-Qaida's leader's death.

Bin Laden was killed on May 1, 2011, by a Navy SEAL team that assaulted his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

More victims of Russian plane crash buried in wrong graves



In this April 11, 2010 photo, Russian officials and investigators work near the wreckage of the Polish presidential plane that crashed in western Russia. MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Misidentified. Polish distrust mounts as two more bodies from horrific 2010 aviation disaster exhumed

Forensic testing has proven that two more victims of the 2010 plane crash in Russia that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others were misidentified and buried in the wrong graves, Polish prosecutors said Wednesday.

The number of misidentified victims has now grown to six and highlights flaws in the handling of the crash's aftermath in Russia. Such errors are deepening Polish distrust of historic foe Russia, while also fueling Polish conspiracy theories about the cause of the disaster.

But a Polish official also has been blamed for misidentifying one of the victims, while even the families of victims of the brutal crash have made mistakes in identifying their loved ones.

Capt. Marcin Maksjan, an official with the military prosecu-

tors, said two bodies suspected of being in the wrong graves were exhumed from two separate locations in Warsaw last week, and that forensic testing confirmed the suspicions.

"The results show unequivocally that the bodies of the victims were laid to rest in the wrong graves," a separate statement by military prosecutors said.

Polish media have said they were two Roman Catholic priests, but authorities wouldn't confirm their identities.

The suspicions arose after a study of forensic medical documentation sent by Russia raised suspicions that errors had been made.

Maksjan said it appeared that families of the victims made a correct identification of their loved ones after the crash but that Russian officials probably then put them in the wrong coffins.

Since September Polish authorities have also exhumed four other bodies and confirmed they were mixed-up.

Authorities say more exhumations could take place.

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People wait in line early Wednesday in Toms River, N.J., for volunteers to hand out prepared Thanksgiving dinners donated by Lowe's and Boston Market in communities most affected by Superstorm Sandy. Gov. Chris Christie and his wife Mary Pat Christie joined volunteers to pack and hand out about 500 pre-made meals in Toms River. MEL EVANS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm victims come together for Thanksgiving

Silver lining. Struggling residents welcome an outpouring of food and cash donations

The things that Marge Gatti once cherished are lying on what's left of her deck, splattered in mud, like a yard sale gone awry.

The stuff is ruined, just like her sodden Staten Island home, which was ravaged by Superstorm Sandy's floodwaters and will be demolished in the coming weeks. Of all things material, Gatti has nothing.

And yet, on Thanksgiving Day, she will be counting her blessings.

Mother

"We won't be sitting at a dining room table. We'll be eating off of paper plates ... but at least we'll be together."

Linda Marten of New York City

"My sons are alive. They were trapped here," said Gatti, 67, who lived in a beige home down the block from the Atlantic Ocean for 32 years. "I'm thankful that I have all my family. And that my friends are still here, you know? We're all friends now. There's no strangers in life anymore."

It will be a subdued Thanksgiving for families hit hard

by the storm as they gather with friends and strangers alike, seeking to celebrate the people and things that were spared when so much was lost. But they will not be left to fend for themselves.

Restaurants are donating meals, strangers and churches are opening their doors, and people from across the nation have sent an outpouring of donations for those unable to roast their own turkey.

New York City and Macy's have set aside 5,000 bleacher seats along the Thanksgiving Day Parade route for families affected by Superstorm Sandy. Occupy Sandy, the storm-relief offshoot of the Occupy Wall Street movement, will host a Thanksgiving dinner in lower Manhattan. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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CAN-122017_1211

Ottawa

NDP says Tories whitewashed F-35 report

The NDP accused the Conservatives of using a House of Commons committee to whitewash the auditor general's scathing indictment of the government's mammoth F-35 jet fighter procurement.

The NDP levelled the charge in a dissenting opinion

ion to the public accounts committee's report, tabled Wednesday.

"The NDP remains deeply concerned that this study did not allow parliamentarians to shed light and complete the inquiry on this very important matter," says the three-page dissenting opinion. "Only seven hours of testimony were dedicated to this study, and no responsible ministers appeared during the inquiry."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP lay charges against London mayor

Calls for resignation.

Fontana facing three criminal charges after month-long probe



ANGELA MULLINS
Metro in London

London, Ont. Mayor Joe Fontana is slated to make his first public appearance on Thursday since being slapped with criminal charges alleging he misused taxpayers' money in his days as an MP.

A news conference is scheduled for 1 p.m. at London lawyer Gordon Cudmore's office. Fontana is expected to address the charges — announced on Wednesday — and his future as the city's top politician.

For at least one colleague, any question about what Fontana should do has been cemented. "He has no options, in my opinion, but to step down," Coun. Denise Brown, one of Fontana's allies in previous calls for his resignation, said in an email. "Needless to say, (I'm) awfully disappointed as he told me as late as this week that it would be cleared up."

Mounties laid charges, including fraud and breach of trust, on Tuesday, Sgt. Richard Rollings said. Fontana "voluntarily attended the (RCMP) detachment" on Wednesday and was released pending a Jan. 8 court appearance, Rollings said.

The House of Commons asked for an investigation on Oct. 19, after media reports that Fontana, 62, used federal-government cheques to cover costs arising from his son's 2005 wedding reception. One of the cheques was for \$1,700, the "value of the alleged fraud" in charges laid, Rollings said.



London Mayor Joe Fontana has scheduled a news conference for Thursday at his lawyer's office. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO IN LONDON

RCMP investigation

The charges against London Mayor Joe Fontana:

- Breach of trust by a public officer
- Fraud under \$5,000
- Uttering forged documents.

ed a statement on his website reaffirming his plans to stay in office despite continued calls that he take a leave of

absence.

Coun. Paul Hubert is among those who have repeatedly said the only way to restore "integrity" in the mayor's office and council is for Fontana to step aside. He called Wednesday a "distressing day" for London.

"Now, the job of council is to work together to move the city forward" and "rebuild the city's trust," he said.

"I think Joe can help us with that by recusing himself until such time as the charges are dealt with."

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World carbon emissions still too high: UN

Fossil fuels. Report comes ahead of major climate conference

A UN report on rising greenhouse-gas emissions reminded world governments Wednesday that their efforts to fight climate change are far from enough to meet their goal of limiting global warming to 2 C.

The report by the UN Environment Program, released

just days ahead of a major climate conference, said the concentration of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is up about 20 per cent since 2000.

Scientists say those emissions are contributing to climate change and that failure to contain them could have dangerous consequences, including rising sea levels inundating coastal cities, dramatic shifts in rainfall disrupting

Quoted

"A transition to a low-carbon, inclusive Green Economy is happening far too slowly."

UNEP executive director Achim Steiner

agriculture and drinking water, the spread of diseases and the extinction of species.

Emissions levels, driven

by the burning of fossil fuels, need to come down by 14 per cent by 2020 for the world to reach a pathway that could keep the global temperature rise below 2 C, compared with pre-industrial levels, UNEP said. That's the stated goal of UN climate negotiations, which resume next week in Doha. But it won't happen if countries don't come ahead with more ambitious plans than what's currently on the table. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Steam and smoke rise from a coal-burning power plant in Germany.

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Reproductive health

Fewer abortions may be due to increase in birth control

U.S. abortions fell five per cent during the recession and its aftermath in the biggest one-year decrease in at least a decade, perhaps because women are more careful to use birth control when times are tough, researchers say.

The decline, detailed on Wednesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, came in 2009, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Both the number of abortions and the abortion rate dropped by the same percentage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church rift

Failure to approve female bishops raises hell in U.K.

The Church of England has some explaining to do following its failure to vote to let women serve as bishops, its leader said Wednesday, and politicians from the prime minister downward are already demanding action or answers.

The governing General Synod blocked the change as the vote among lay members on Tuesday fell short of the required two-thirds majority. Bishops and clergy, in separate votes, overwhelmingly backed the proposal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



First Family meets Cobbler

U.S. President Barack Obama and daughter Sasha Obama pet the 2012 National Thanksgiving Turkey Cobbler during a turkey-pardon event on Wednesday at the White House in Washington, DC. **GETTY IMAGES**

Holiday shoppers aren't yet keen on apps, survey finds

Retailing. Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's slow to catch on in Canada

Smartphones can scan barcodes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said

from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands of discounts.

Booth said even though Canadians do a lot of online research and price comparison, app adoption is about a year behind the United States. He expects more uptake by Canadians in 2013.

Marta Tryshak, creator of lifestyle and fashion website

Quoted

"(Holidays) are the times when you have to have a strategy when it comes to shopping, otherwise you will be overwhelmed."

Marta Tryshak, lifestyle and fashion blogger, who says using her smartphone to check prices is a must during the busy shopping season

WithLoveGabrielle.com, has been using her smartphone for four years to find the best prices and said it's a must for Black Friday and other holiday shopping.

"Those are the times when you have to have a strategy when it comes to shopping, otherwise you will be overwhelmed," said 24-year-old Tryshak. "There's

no better way to do so than just checking on your phone. You never know what you will find in a store, so you can't tug along your laptop."

The online survey of 1,514 Canadians by Leger Marketing has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A reporter demonstrates a shopping app on her smartphone in San Francisco. While there are a slew of apps that can help save time and money this holiday season, a new survey suggests most Canadians don't plan on using them. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prepaid Visa. RBC drops expiry dates, most fees ahead of new regulations

Canada's largest banking group has dropped expiry dates and most of the fees on its prepaid Visa cards in the wake of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announcing plans to introduce new rules for the cards.

RBC Royal Bank said Wednesday it will continue to charge a one-time flat fee of \$3.95 to issue the prepaid card but all the money loaded will remain available to make purchases. Its prepaid cards will continue to show an expiry date but a new card can be requested at no charge if a balance remains after that date.

Flaherty said last month that the government believes it's not appropriate for consumers to lose money if a gift card expires after a period of time.

Prepaid peril

- Prepaid credit cards have come under fire for exorbitant hidden fees that reduce their face value. These can include monthly or annual fees, maintenance costs, as well as ATM charges.

He said the government wants better disclosure of the terms of conditions of prepaid credit cards.

RBC said there will be no usage, maintenance nor inactivity fees for its prepaid cards, which come in denominations ranging from \$25 to \$500.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Switching to iPhones

Another U.S. agency drops BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, the latest American government agency to turn

away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

"These Apple devices will replace the NTSB's existing BlackBerry devices, which have been failing both at inopportune times and at an unacceptable rate," the board said in a recent document. Research In Motion has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients.

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Congo policemen, foreground, and civilians gather during a M23 rally in Goma, Congo, Wednesday. The rebel group seized the strategic provincial capital of Goma on Tuesday, home to more than one million people. MELANIE GOUBY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

M23 rebels vow to take all Congo as troops defect

Gaining ground.

Soldiers, police switch sides in conflict, as UN accuses rebel group of executions, rape and recruiting child soldiers

The M23 rebels pressed ahead with their seizure of territory and towns in eastern Congo on Wednesday and said they intended to topple the government of President Joseph Kabila.

The rebels took control of the eastern Congo town of Sake in a bid to move toward the provincial capital of Bukavu.

"Kabila has to go. We want our country back," said M23 Col. Vianney Kazarama, to cheers from thousands gathered at the stadium in Goma, which was seized by the rebels on Tuesday. "We are now going to Kinshasa. No one will divide this country."

Nearly 3,000 Congolese army soldiers and police defected to the rebels in Goma on Wednesday and turned in their weapons at the stadium rally.



A Congo policeman hands in his weapon to M23 rebels during an M23 rally in Goma on Wednesday. MELANIE GOUBY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Even as the rebels consolidated their gains, the presidents of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda called on them to give up the territory they now control.

The M23 is made up of hundreds of officers who deserted the Congo army in April this year. Neighbouring Rwanda has supplied trained soldiers and weapons, according to a report by United Nations experts.

The speed with which the M23 has seized Goma and the surrounding countryside, rich in minerals, exposes the weakness of President Joseph Kabila's government, say experts.

Strewn with bodies, burned-out vehicles and abandoned tanks, the road between Goma and Sake showed evidence of Tuesday's fighting.

M23 soldiers in vehicles patrolled the streets of Sake, 27 kilometres south of Goma. As in Goma, most residents accepted the rebels' presence.

"We only want peace," said Innocent Rumabo, in Sake.

Other residents complained of rapes carried out Tuesday night. "I know two women who were raped (and) there are more in the area," said one Goma resident who insisted on anonymity for fear of retaliation.

A UN spokesman in New York said the nearly 1,500 UN peacekeepers in Goma held their fire to avoid triggering a battle. The peacekeepers "cannot substitute for the efforts of national forces" in Congo, said spokesman Eduardo del Buoy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A Congolese man who lost his legs during fighting in 2008 sits with his prosthetic legs near Goma's football stadium Wednesday. Thousands of Congolese soldiers and policemen defected to the M23 rebels, as rebel leaders vowed to take control of all Congo. MARC HOFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report

Rwanda behind M23 rebels: UN

The Rwandan military is commanding and supporting the rebel force that overtook the towns of Sake and Goma in the Congo this week, according to a United Nations report released Wednesday.

The report says, "The government of Rwanda continues to violate the arms embargo by providing direct military support to the M23 rebels, facilitating recruitment, encouraging and facilitating desertions from the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and providing arms, ammunition, intelligence and political advice."

The report also accuses Uganda of involvement. Uganda has said it would pull its troops out of UN peacekeeping operations if it was named in the report.

Both Rwanda and Uganda have denied supporting the M23 rebel movement.

The UN accuses the M23 of crimes including recruiting child soldiers, summary executions and rape.

On Wednesday, the UN's special representative for Congo said the 19,000-strong UN peacekeeping force there is being stretched thin by multiple rebel militias.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Emergency talks

In neighbouring Uganda, the presidents of Uganda, Rwanda and Congo resolved to put pressure on the M23 rebels to give up territory they have captured, according to a statement released at the end of the emergency talks.

each government "must bear the burden" of its own internal problems, according to a diplomat close to the talks, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the emergency summit.

- Congo's President Joseph Kabila said he was willing to negotiate directly with the M23 rebels, a reversal from his previous refusal to talk with the rebels.

- Uganda, which was also implicated in the Congo violence in a report by UN experts, denies supporting the rebels.

- Rwanda's President Paul Kagame reiterated Rwanda's denial that it is supporting the rebels, saying

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Nova Scotia. Proposed law would allow wine imports to cross borders

Nova Scotia wine drinkers would be able to import wine from other parts of Canada under provincial legislation proposed Wednesday.

Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald says changes to Nova Scotia's regulations follows a recent decision by the federal government to lift its ban on wine importation.

If the legislation becomes

law, Nova Scotia would join British Columbia and Manitoba as the only provinces to allow direct importation.

MacDonald will write to her counterparts in other provinces to encourage them to make similar changes. She says the removal of provincial barriers would provide a growth opportunity for Nova Scotia's 18 wineries. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market Minute



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GOLD
\$1,728.20 US (+\$4.60)

New York City. After insider trading arrest, prosecutors may have sights on big game

The arrest of a former hedge-fund portfolio manager in what prosecutors are calling one of the most lucrative insider-trading schemes ever indicates that prosecutors may be setting their sights higher — toward a wealthy business leader the suspect's firm was connected to, an expert says.

Mathew Martoma made an arrangement to obtain secret, advance results of tests on an experimental Alzheimer's drug that netted more than \$276 million US for his fund and others, according to charges filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

He was arrested Tuesday on allegations that he used the information to advise other investment professionals to buy shares in the companies developing the drug, then later to dump those investments and place financial bets against the companies when the tests re-



Robert Khuzami, director of the SEC division of enforcement, speaks at a news conference Tuesday in New York. **LOUIS LANZANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

turned disappointing results.

Martoma's trades helped reap a hefty profit from 2006 through July 2008, while he worked for CR Intrinsic Investors LLC of Stamford, Conn., an affiliate of SAC Capital Advisors, a firm owned by Steven A. Cohen, one of the nation's wealthiest hedge-fund managers. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Radiation-proofed robot may help at meltdown site

Japan. Toshiba's new four-legged machine was designed to go into tsunami-crippled Fukushima plant

Robotics technology

- Japan boasts some of the world's most sophisticated robotics technology, exemplified in the walking, talking human-shaped Asimo robot from Honda Motor Co. The inability of such delicate gadgetry to help out with the Fukushima disaster was widely criticized.

Toshiba Corp. unveiled a robot Wednesday that the company says can withstand high radiation and help in nuclear disasters. But it remains unclear what exactly the new machine will be capable of doing if and when it gets the go-ahead to enter Japan's crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The four-legged robot can climb over debris and venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. One significant innovation, Toshiba said, is that its wireless network can be controlled in high radiation, automatically seeking better transmission when reception becomes weak.

But the machine, which looks like an ice cooler on wobbly metal legs, also appears prone to glitches. The robot took a jerky misstep during a demonstration to reporters, freezing with one leg up in the air. It had to be lifted by several people and rebooted.

It was also notably slow in climbing a flight of eight steps, cautiously lifting its legs one by one, and taking about a minute to go up each step.

With obstacles that aren't as even and predictable as steps, such as the debris at the plant, it may need as much as 10 minutes to figure out how to clear the object, Toshiba acknowledged. And if it ever falls, it will not be able to get up on its own.

Still, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it might use the robot to inspect the suppression chamber of the Fukushima plant, where a devastating meltdown took place after a mammoth tsunami slammed into northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Toshiba's nuclear inspection robot climbs stairs during a demonstration at a factory west of Tokyo on Wednesday. The robot can venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. **ITSUO INOUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Sept. 11 attacks

United won't be on hook for Trade Center collapse

A New York City judge has rejected claims in a lawsuit that United Airlines can be held responsible for the collapse of a third World Trade Center building after the twin towers fell in the Sept. 11 attacks. The corporate entity that owns 7 World Trade Center sued various defendants including United. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Hostess bankruptcy

Twinkie maker to go under after all

A bankruptcy court judge on Wednesday approved a request by Hostess Brands Inc. to begin winding down its operations.

The ruling came after the maker of Twinkies, Ding Dongs and Wonder Bread failed in last-ditch negotiations to end a strike by its second-largest union. Hostess now has the green light to sell off its brands. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Real estate

House prices fall in October

There's mounting evidence October was a weak month for sales of Canadian housing. A new monthly analysis by Teranet shows Canadian housing prices declined last month compared with September — only the third time in 13 years of data that there was a month-to-month decline in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fiscal crisis

EU impasse on Greece financing deal drags on

Greece reacted with dismay Wednesday after European finance ministers failed to agree to release vital rescue loans, with the prime minister warning that the stakes are higher than just his debt-ridden country's future. The impasse follows another fruitless meeting last week.

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1. TBR Report – "IBM System x® x86 servers: Meeting the demands of today's enterprises by combining value and support," January 2012. 2. Source: Intel Performance comparison using SPECint*_rate_base2006 benchmark. Baseline score of 267 on prior generation 2S Intel® Xeon® processor X5690 (3.46 GHz, 6 core, 12MB L3, 6.4 GT/s, 130W) based platform published at www.spec.org as of 6 Sept 2011. Estimated new score of 486 on 2S Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690 (2.90 GHz, 8 core, 20MB L3, 8.0 GT/s, 135W) based platform is based on Intel internal measured estimates as of 6 Sept 2011 using two Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690, Turbo Enabled, EIST Enabled, Hyper-Threading Enabled, 64 GB memory (8 x 8 GB DDR3-1600), Red Hat® Enterprise Linux Server 6.1 beta for x86_64, Intel® Compiler 12.1. 3. x3650 M4 supports up to 768 GB of memory using 32 GB LRDIMMs in its 24 memory slots. Previous generation x3650 M3 supports up to 192 GB of memory. 4. Ships with 4 1 Gb Ethernet ports standard and supports integrated slot-less 10 Gb Ethernet with Virtual Fabric. Previous generation server includes 2 1 Gb Ethernet slots and requires use of a PCI Express slot to support 10 Gb Ethernet. *Available later in 2012. IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and serviceable used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply. For a copy of applicable product warranties, visit http://www.ibm.com/servers/support/machine_warranties. IBM makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. IBM, the IBM logo, BladeCenter, System Storage, Storwize and System x are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. For a current list of IBM trademarks, see www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. All prices and savings estimates are subject to change without notice, may vary according to configuration, are based upon IBM's estimated retail selling prices as of 11/06/12 and may not include storage, hard drive, operating system or other features. Reseller prices and savings to end users may vary. Products are subject to availability. This document was developed for offerings in Canada. IBM may not offer the products, features, or services discussed in this document in other countries. Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner for the most current pricing in your geographic area. © 2012 IBM Corporation.



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NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith, "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League.

While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other

media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negotiations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

He Says: Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

Bettman: Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

Straight talk

"The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans."

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman told He Says in an honest interview

He Says: Don't you think this cavalier attitude will only reinforce Canadians' belief that you don't care about the fans, delivering a Raffi Torres-like check to the head to our national game?

Bettman: Well, first of all, I don't know what a Raffi Torres is, but let me say that I'm confident the fans will be back.

He Says: How can you be so sure?

Bettman: If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

He Says: I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

Bettman: You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

He Says: I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

Bettman: We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

He Says: That's refreshingly honest.

Bettman: The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

He Says: Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

Bettman: I'm sorry, what?

He Says: Uh, just forget it.



NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Choo-choo-chocolatey express



YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World record

Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length and was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 lb.) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's as long as...

Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.

- **NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- **Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- **The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100-feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.

Culinary concoctions

It's a sweet time to be a world record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.

- **Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!
- **Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy in 2011.

Calorie counting

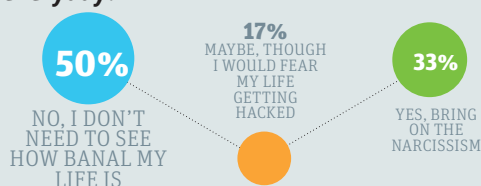
6.5M

The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But, the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weights three times as much as the train.



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Twitter

@amyrosen:

I ate soup and affected change! So awesome that the people stopped the mega-quarry. A great day for soup. Thank you Chef Stadlander.

@annie_brookie:

no more mega quarry! #happytweeet

@ZackFraser:

@mannyamah1 @metrotoronto Is there a quarterly fair hike, or is it just me!? It's just getting ridiculous,

really. #TTC

@TankingSince67:

Sick of the @NHLPA tweeting garbage to #thefans, try working your a-- of everyday for 130,000 a year, see if u like that better #theplayers

@karagolani:

Awful people everywhere but stealing 100,000 toys from @SalvationArmy? That's a whole new low. #charity #toronto



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9350 Yonge St.
10720 Yonge St.
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1800 Sheppard Ave. E.
Cedarbrae Mall
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1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
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662 King St. W. Unit 2
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The One of a Kind Craft Show and Sale is on this week for thousands of people looking for Christmas goodies. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2 SCENE

What crafts will you find that are one-of-a-kind?

Seasonal expos.

Toronto's craft fairs offer up-and-coming artisans a chance to showcase their handiwork



BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

'Tis the season for craft fairs. Lots of 'em.

Toronto's annual plethora of shows is a boon for anyone searching for something unique for that special someone, but they also

act as a proving ground for up-and-coming artisans peddling their locally produced, handmade goods.

Take Jana Bookholt. Eighteen months ago, her Halifax-based business Swaine Street Woodworking barely existed. Yet after attending a pair of shows with only a handful of her characterie and cutting boards, word quickly spread. By March, she'd quit her job waiting tables to concentrate on her craft full-time.

"My first real craft show was last December and it was a small one," she says. "So this year has been absolutely incredible."

There's even a craft show circuit many find themselves on, though Bookholt

has only attended a few herself.

This weekend, Bookholt is taking part in her first One of a Kind Show here in Toronto.

The show, which has run since 1975, is considered the craft fair to end all craft fairs.

"All the other artisans, if you say you're doing One of a Kind, they're like, 'Wow. Eleven days. You're serious.'"

Bookholt isn't sure what to expect in terms of business at the show. Her boards run between \$86 and \$250 and through the grapevine, she's heard of people selling \$10,000 worth of product in a single day.

"That is just so beyond,"

she says.

"That's what you'll make in six months."

What she knows she'll find are like-minded crafters and artisans.

"There's so many people I've seen online who are making really cool things."

She says she is working harder and longer than ever but she loves it.

"I am so excited to see and touch and get to buy these products and to get to meet these people."

"It gets me going to see this happening around me."

The One of a Kind Show: takes place from Nov. 22 to Dec. 2 at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place. oneofakindshow.com.

From cabinets to crafts

Bookholt fell into woodworking after studying drawing and printmaking at the Nova Scotia School of Art and Design. "I had this unrealistic idea that I was going to be an artist," she says. In between serving shifts she took a cabinetry course since she couldn't afford to pay someone to make repairs on the house she had bought. "It taught me how to use the basic machines that you find in wood shops," she says. "I started making cutting boards because I needed one."

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Delusions of Grandeur. Sasseville's show hits Blip following ABC rejection



Sasseville in his Blip show *Delusions of Grandeur*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jake Sasseville had it all planned out: He'd been working for a year on a TV show based on his life, and he was going to get it on the air in a unique fashion — by buying network time.

He purchased eight 30-minute blocks on ABC Family to launch *Delusions of Grandeur*. It was set to debut Oct. 4 at 1 a.m. EDT, but the network pulled it two weeks before the air-date, Sasseville said.

"I got a ton of emails from the legal team who all of a sudden chose ... that the show was not going to air," the 26-year-old said of the show, which has now found a home on Blip, a website for original series. "And this was after I paid for the time."

ABC Family, which is owned by Disney, said in a statement that "Sasseville's show didn't air 'because it did not meet our standards for programming for time buy purchases.'" The network didn't provide details. He did receive a refund, however.

Sasseville was using the time buy and paid programming format, where the purchaser buys airtime

and gets sponsors, but the network retains control. He used the format for *The Edge With Jake Sasseville* in 2008, which aired on ABC affiliates following Jimmy Kimmel Live, and for *Late Night Republic*, which aired on MyNetworkTV and Fox stations from August 2010 to October 2011.

He said he funded both programs through sponsorships with Overstock.com, Ford Motor Co., Microsoft Corp. and others.

Delusions of Grandeur, a loosely scripted comedy about the actor-comedian's life and his successes and failures in the TV industry, debuted Oct. 3 on Blip. So far, four 30-minute episodes have aired, and it returns Tuesday after its mid-season break.

He was also able to retain his advertisers, including State Farm insurance company, once his show got the boot from ABC. Sasseville is producing the series through his production company, City of Sass. He also has a new book, *Slightly Famous*, published by City of Sass Print.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alec sharpens Claus for edgy festive role

Rise of the Guardians. Baldwin voices an alternate Santa Claus covered in tattoos for new animated film

OLIVIA MORROW

Metro World News in New York

Alec Baldwin is widely recognized for the huge variety of roles he's played throughout his long, successful career, but you might not have expected him to tackle his latest character in the Dreamworks animated film, *Rise of the Guardians*.

Baldwin gives voice to an unconventional Santa Claus, with a thick, brutish accent and arms full of tattoos. One of the film's producers, Christina Steinberg, puts it perfectly: "Who's more naughty and nice than Alec?"

Although Baldwin has voiced numerous characters in past films — including *Madagascar 2* and *Cats & Dogs* — you'd expect that children's films wouldn't be of much appeal considering his only daughter is now a teenager.

"I think that people all say that they want to ... do this children's program-

Quoted

"I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping gifts with my mother and I was like 'Wait, what!'"

Alec Baldwin, actor
On when he started to question the existence of Santa Claus.

What's next?

Quality over quantity. As he prepares to say goodbye to 30 Rock, it seems Baldwin's life is slowing down, as he says his career is all about quality rather than quantity now. "I'd rather just stay home with my wife and my two dogs and watch TV now. I'd rather watch a movie than make a movie any day," he says.

On Turning 50. "I'm at a stage now where it's more like when you were a child where you're very present. When you're kids, everything is very small. ... Then you turn 50 — the world becomes a lot smaller and you'd rather do less things and do them well and have a more satisfying personal life."

ming for your kids," he says. "My daughter is 17 now, my daughter is watching God-knows-what.

"It's kind of frightening, but I think that when they showed me that these were going to be edgier versions of these characters — when you see the Santa Claus figure it's usually ... a rosy-cheeked, saintly man with not a lot of dimension — (it) was a lot more real, so I loved that."

Baldwin talked about his personal beliefs regarding Santa Claus when he was a child and how he discovered it was all a myth: "I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping presents with my mother and I was like, 'Wait, what?'" he explains.

"I think they only told me because the more kids my mother had, the more wrapping they had to do. I immediately became enlisted as a wrapper."



Alec Baldwin gives a new voice to Santa Claus. GETTY IMAGE

But just what was it like for Baldwin to play the legendary character?

"The key with these kinds of films is to work your way toward a much warmer kind of humanistic place, literally in your voice. ... The thing for me is to try to vary the tone. ... You want to try to keep it warm, there's

a great deal of love and warmth in the piece, (but) there's always a chance to make it really, really bombastic, especially with the Santa Claus character.

"There's a chance to make it very strident. The guy is very, very powerful in some scenes — but in other scenes you want to make it silly and fun and child-friendly."

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Daredevil genius. The precocious Nolan Gould talks about life at 14



Nolan Gould's life philosophy? Do something every day that could potentially harm you. HANDOUT

Nolan Gould, one of the younger stars of TV's *Modern Family*, may look innocent enough, but inside he's secretly a thrill-seeking daredevil with an IQ of 150. The actor, who recently celebrated his 14th birthday, has a simple life philosophy: Do something every day that could potentially harm you. Whoever handles the show's insurance policy must love that.

I've heard you're certifiably a genius.

We actually had to do an IQ test for school purposes. I have a 150 IQ, and my brother actually has a 152 IQ, which is kind of annoying for me because now he can always say, "I'm smarter than you." And I'm a member of Mensa. It's really awesome. But actually, being smart never comes up in my ordinary life. Like, it's not something that I go and brag about. I actually tested out of high school. In California, you can take this exam, and I passed on my first shot. Legally, it means I don't have to do school, but of course, that would be really bad. I need an education. I'm only 14. So I'm going to continue, finish out the tenth grade and then maybe go on to do some college courses.

Would you want to eventually do something more mentally stimulating than acting?

Well, that's what school is for. All of the other activities

don't really use my brain. I try to use the exact opposite of my brain and try to use, like, my body to do, like, crazy exercise stuff. I do parkour, which is this crazy new sport where it's, like, stunts and flips off walls and, like, jumping over stuff. It's pretty crazy. I get really hurt doing it. I do a lot of other stuff like hiking and camping — I'm a Boy Scout — or skydiving. Pretty much anything dangerous.

The studio doesn't get nervous about all that?

You know, our producer is always just saying, "Please don't hurt the actor," because I'm always doing such crazy stuff. But my philosophy on life — I actually do have a philosophy on life — is if you go a day without doing something that could potentially get you hurt, it's not a good day. Some people will not think it is a very good one, but I do.

What are you planning for today?

For today? I'm actually going to my Parkour class. I do it up at a training gym. So we'll see if I get hurt today.

Yesterday was your birthday. What was the thing that was going to hurt you on your birthday?

I went paintballing, which hurts a lot. So yeah, I've already met my quota for the week by going paintballing.

NED EHRBAR, MWN

Julie Bowen cuts her parenthood teeth

Modern Family. Scenarios on Emmy-winning sitcom give actress the prep needed for when her kids reach the teen years



NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

A two-time Emmy winner for her portrayal of Type A mom Claire on *Modern Family*, Julie Bowen appears to have wrangling teens down, dealing with the hormonal outbursts of her three onscreen kids. But at home, it's a different picture for Bowen, who has three much younger sons in real life — a five-year-old and three-year-old twins. Luckily, she's acting out situations familiar to most parents of teenagers on the show, so she'll be well-prepared for the parenting challenges facing her 10 years from now.

On how the show is training her for when her kids are older:

"It is training as far as saying, like, 'No. Do it. No arguing. Clean this.' The idea that you are supposed to be best friends with your kids and they are supposed to love you and you are supposed to hang out and be buddies — and I have those moments every day — but it invariably ends in, 'Well, if we are best friends, can I eat chocolate in bed while watching TV?' 'No.' 'Why?' 'Because you can't.' And then it turns into just boundaries and mom, and Claire is very helpful there. Claire has a lot of boundaries."

On the truth about her work-home balance:

"My kids keep me much busier than work. Work is wonderful, and it's where I come to take a nap. I had one this morning. It was fantastic. I have to be to work at six, and then they do my hair and makeup, and then we had a rehearsal. And then they had an hour where they were setting up. I immediately go to sleep wherever I am. I just lie down and sleep. I can hardly wait. At home



Is Julie Bowen Type-A like her *Modern Family* character? HANDOUT

Quoted

"My kids keep me much busier than work. Work is wonderful, and it's where I come to take a nap. I had one this morning"

Julie Bowen

that doesn't happen."

On having realistic expectations for healthy eating:

"You know, I try to get my kids to eat one green thing a day, and if I do, I win. I eat very well, but my kids ... I think that there are realistic expectations. I don't feed them sugar and junk food all day long at all, but they want buttery noodles with every meal. They basically want fat and carbs and cheese, and they are going to get it in whatever form. So I slap down some broccoli, and they have to eat it or else I'll

be mean to them. But if you are boiling water and putting in your own pasta and butter and Parmesan cheese, it really is a healthy meal. It's just not very well-balanced if you are not throwing some vegetables and some protein in there. So you've kind of got to look at the week as a big picture. I look at the week as one big meal for my kids as opposed to every single day and every single meal being perfectly structured. It doesn't work like that. My kids are awful."

On her Emmy win — and attention-grabbing acceptance speech:

"I got more comments on the fact that I thanked my nannies, which is a word that I hesitate to use because it makes me sound like I have Mary Poppins floating around my house. But I do have two different women without whom I could not live or do my job."

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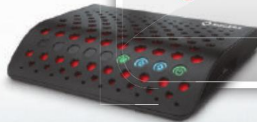


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Singer Aimee Mann has turned to an AM radio hit for inspiration on her new album. GETTY IMAGES

Mann details the less than charmed life indie musicians live

New album. Aimee Mann reveals unique inspiration behind latest effort and the struggles facing modern artists

The musical inspiration for Aimee Mann's latest disc may come as a surprise. It certainly did for Larry Lee.

Mann's *Charmer* hearkens back to the pop-rock structures of her 1990s discs *Whatever* and *I'm With Stupid*, and ultimately even further, to radio-friendly hits from 30 and 40 years ago. That's her pop music, not the kind made by Taylor Swift, Beyoncé or Katy Perry. In fact, she zeroed in on one song in particular: Jackie Blue, a 1975 hit by the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

"To me, that's the perfect pop song and was kind of the

Music videos

Two videos for *Charmer* give Mann the chance to display her humour

- **Big names.** Jon Hamm and humorists Tom Scharpling and Jon Wurster appear in the video for *Labrador*. It shows Mann tricked into remaking the video for *Voices Carry*, her 1985 hit.

touchstone for the whole record," said Mann, who's 52. "In fact, there are certain songs (on *Charmer*) where it's basically a homage to that song."

Charmer, which debuted at No. 33 on Billboard's 200 albums chart in September, is not a concept album, but Mann finds discs that are more than a collection of un-

related songs more satisfying to the artist and listener.

Mann went through record company nightmares early in her career, and now makes music on her own label, SuperEgo. That doesn't make her immune to the industry's problems. She said many fans can't see the connection between illegally downloading music and the struggles of their favourite artists.

"If I don't have enough money to make another album, I can't make another album," she said. "That's how it goes. You can't think about it. Am I suddenly going to appeal to people's consciences and make them not steal music? If you don't like it, great, then I can understand you not buying it. But if you like it and end up stealing it, then I just think you're a jerk. Of all the people to steal from. Musicians? Really?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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One Direction released its sophomore album, *Take Me Home*, which comes eight months after the boy band dropped its debut, *Up All Night*, which debuted at No. 1 and is platinum. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One Direction headed on upward trajectory

Boy band. Sophomore album, *Take Me Home*, moves 540,000 units in first week on shelves

One Direction's *Take Me Home* is the taking the boys to the top of the charts — and to new heights.

The London group's sophomore album has sold 540,000 in its first week, according to

Nielsen SoundScan. It's the year's third-highest debut behind Taylor Swift's *Red*, which sold 1.2 million units its first week earlier this month, and Mumford & Sons' *Babel*, which sold more than 600,000 albums in September in its debut week.

"We just want to say a massive thanks to all the fans who have supported us," band member Harry Styles, 18, said in an interview Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

By the numbers

The album also debuted at No. 1 in the United Kingdom this week.

- **Success.** The fivesome's debut, *Up All Night*, came in at No. 2 in the U.K. last year; it was just released in March in America, where it hit platinum status.

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- Study starts on Wednesday November 28, 2012
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Saskatoon-based author of Life of Pi Yann Martel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judges responsible for setting Martel's Life of Pi on path to success revel in vindication

2002 Booker Prize.

Canadian author's boy-tiger shipwreck tale has been adapted for big screen and is due for release

The vast popularity of Saskatoon-based author Yann Martel's novel Life of Pi, which Oscar-winning director Ang Lee has turned into an ambitious film that opens Wednesday, is particularly gratifying for Erica Wagner.

That's because Wagner, literary editor for The Times in England, was on the Man Booker Prize jury that gave the best-selling boy-tiger spiritual shipwreck tale its big break by picking it as the winner of the prestigious award in 2002.

Seeing its subsequent success proves that she and her fellow jury members weren't alone in thinking the fantasy adventure was an extraordinary story, she says. "It's just such an unusual book but so vivid and imaginative, and I still think it's just a wonderful book," Wagner said in a recent telephone interview. "It's rare in life you look back and think, 'That was the right decision,' but I do."

According to Vintage Canada, which recently published a movie tie-in edition of Life of Pi, the novel has sold 812,000 copies in Canada alone and over nine million copies worldwide.

It also spawned a 2007 illustrated edition as well as a play, and has earned high praise from luminaries including author Margaret Atwood and U.S. President Barack Obama.

And it had no trouble floating to the top of the 2002 pack of Booker contenders, recalls British novelist Russell Celyn Jones, who was also on the jury that was chaired by Lisa Jardine and included David Baddiel and Salley Vickers. "Life of Pi went straight on the long list, nobody discussed it, there was no disagreement," Celyn Jones said by phone from London.

"Then we had a short-list meeting for six books and it went straight into the short list, nobody discussed it because

there was no contention about it." Pi succeeded out of a field that also included two other Canadian authors: Rohinton Mistry for Family Matters, and Carol Shields for Unless. The other finalists were Australia's Tim Winton for Dirt Music, Sarah Waters of Wales for Fingersmith, and Ireland's William Trevor for The Story of Lucy Gault. Holed up in a room at the British Museum for final deliberations on the winner of the prize, which offers 50,000 British pounds, was a "heated experience" for the judges, said Celyn Jones.

In fact, their preliminary vote was in favour of Shields' Unless. "That was the moment I said, 'Look, we've never discussed Life of Pi and we need to now,'" said Celyn Jones. "So I basically wanted that book to win. My other choice was Family Matters. ... So it was a good year for Canadians."

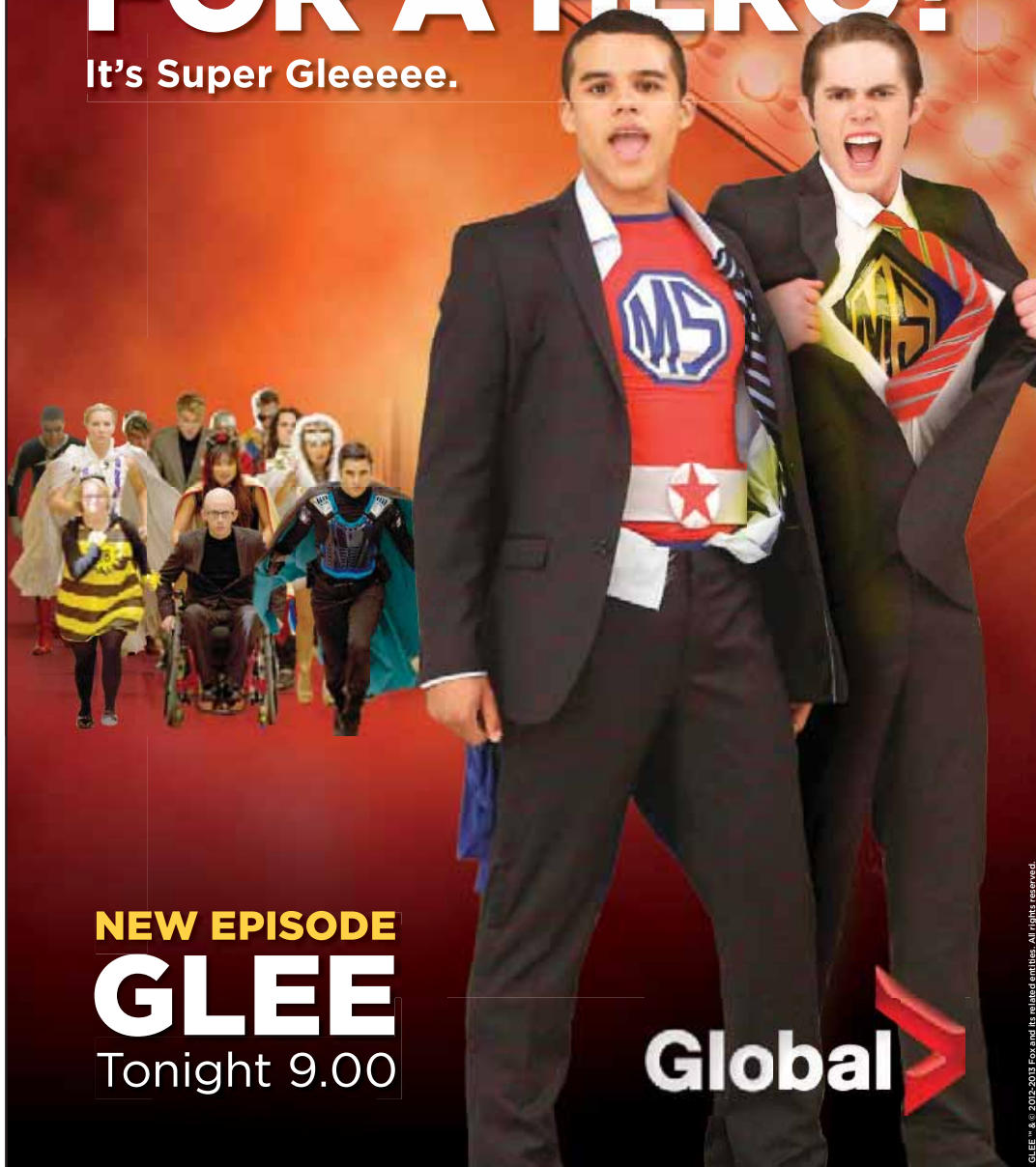
"Pi, with its meandering, strange, plot-defying kind of structure was a breath of fresh air and I just felt, for my money, this was taking risks," he added. The judges, however, argued about the Life of Pi ending, in which the Indian protagonist offers an alternate version to his epic story of being stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger. "People were not happy with the way (Life of Pi) ended and I thought, 'Well, I think the ending is quite appropriate, because it gives you two alternatives: Either this was a fact, what happened to Pi, or that he's constructed a narrative to deal with the grief of losing his parents in a shipping accident,'" added Celyn Jones. Deliberations went on for several hours until about 6:30 p.m. — just half an hour before the start of the prize dinner. When the judges cast their final vote, it was in favour of Pi, "and all the women in the (room) started crying."

"It had been a really sort of a powerful event because we knew two things, essentially," continued Celyn Jones. "We knew that we just handed Yann Martel a million bucks, really, in terms of sales as well as the prize money. Every Booker winner has a huge payday and that indeed has happened to Yann. But the second thing is we were giving a nod of approval to then a small publishing house. Canongate was in competition with large conglomerates and even though that wasn't really a factor, it was pleasing to give a small publisher a victory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Quoted

"All the women in the (room) started crying."

A Booker Prize judge
When Life of Pi was finally elected winner.



Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells *Us Weekly* during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat.

I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not

saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour

THE WORD

Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

What was the hardest part of the tour?

The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?

Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

Twitter



@tyrabanks

Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!



@Pink

Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal



@ElizabethHurley

How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious



@SarahKSilverman

Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1



Justin Bieber

Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

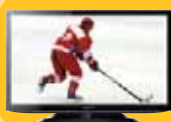
"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber during a one-on-one interview with the superstar.

"Your whole 20s is about discovering who you really are. You owe that to yourself,

particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

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A la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M (\$49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew (\$1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay (\$100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite (\$49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A dress fit for four fêtes

Deck the holidays. No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

THE STAPLE PIECE

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or

Bling it on

Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillow clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of

women heading out on the town.

- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.



Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine, selected this black-and-gold clutch from BCBG (\$190), and Envelope clutch from Forever 21 (\$19.80) to highlight the season's key trends. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a

stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

Going for glam

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.

Comfort casual

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

Office party chic

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The barely-there dress that could

Opinion. How did Kristen Stewart turn that cheating scandal around in her favour? With an equally scandalous dress

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

Never mind that Kristen Stewart has been notoriously press-shy for most of her Twilight career. Lately, she seems to have become a master at manipulating the media. There was her baffling, public apology to boyfriend Robert Pattinson for making out with a married man. And then this dress happened, followed, a day later, by that bodysuit.

Stewart doesn't exactly strike us as the type to wear a see-through corseted gown with diagonal satin panels drawing the eye straight to the crotch. But if you can't shake the scarlet letter, might as well own it, right? The scandalously revealing outfit is a rite of passage for lady celebs. The many ways in which that idea is just unfair and wrong is another article for another time. Let's instead look at a few highlights from history. There was Britney Spears' see-through bodysuit, Jennifer Lopez's plunging belly-baring stunner, the list goes on.

No matter how you feel about the look and fit of her gown, K-Stew won, and here's why.

We've got a mega-teen franchise drawing to a close, an ingénue with a tarnished rep and one of the year's most publicized red carpets. It's as if her lace corset was pinned with a sign that reads: "I'm all grown-up, with a sex scandal to prove it! Consider me for all your serious, adult roles please." (Cue the sound of a single pair of hands clapping slowly.) Well played, Kristen, well played.



Do you like this Zuhair Murad gown on K-Stew? Doesn't matter. GETTY IMAGES

The X-factor: Peep shows of the past

Beyoncé Knowles

The Givenchy couture gown she wore to the Met Ball was more classy than trashy.



Britney Spears

The bodysuit that started it all.

Jennifer Lopez

The Versace dress that made her famous.



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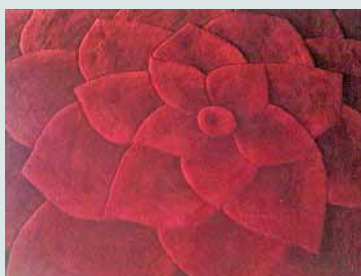
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@Jeanne_Beker: Our lovely @EDITbyJeanneB models for @AdditionElle



@Jeanne_Beker: With the bold+beautiful plus-size bloggers @AdditionElle launch of @EDITbyJeanneB



@Jeanne_Beker: Look at the fab rug I'm considering at @AngloOriental <http://www.anglo-oriental.com>



@Jeanne_Beker: Rob Lowe, hosting @pgawards just butchered my name. But hey, he's damn cute.

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Michelle Yu
Stylist at Holt Renfrew
Age: 28

What she's wearing

Gifted flannel jacket, Proenza Schouler bag, Alden Ray and Birds of a Feather accessories, River Island skirt, Michael Kors Boots, Club Monaco socks

Her inspiration

"Cold weather and this warm flannel jacket I stole from my little brother."

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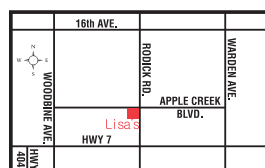
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Fight the chill in style

A parade of military coats came marching down the runway for autumn/ winter '12. We round up the best of the looks for every paycheck.

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Fashion loves a man in uniform and it's easy to see why with structured silhouettes, dressy epaulettes and shimmering buttons that fall on the right side of bling. In a sense, it's how men should dress: a statement without being too gaudy. Above all, military coats have the perfect mix of dressiness and functionality. A win-win.



Sherlock Holmes's art of style detection.



Versace AW'12 makes a pitch for military camp. GETTY IMAGES

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\$1,995, mrporter.com



Crombie

Military coat, \$1,435
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\$500, reiss.com



French Connection

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'I've had a really fun life'

Gracing the pages.
Anna Wintour's right-hand woman pens candid autobiography

The last time Vogue creative director Grace Coddington was impressed by fashion, she was at a Balenciaga runway show in Paris.

Since then, designer Nicolas Ghesquiere has left the house, and it could be some time before Coddington, the woman now largely famous as the woman with flowing red hair perched next to Vogue Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour at scores of catwalks each season, gets to see his clothes again.

Tears or even sympathy seems unlikely from Coddington. While in the eyes of industry observers she might be the good cop trying to defend fashion's integrity and creative license, she also comes across — especially in her new autobiography, *Grace: A Memoir* (Random House) — as very matter of fact: the no-use-crying-over-spilled-milk type.

"I've had a really fun life, and I hope it's interesting and amusing to read the story," she says. "You can't really pick and choose what happens."

Yes, she misses the days when, as both a model and then a magazine editor, she'd go off with a photographer to the world's most exotic lands looking for the scenery to shoot the next greatest picture. Who wouldn't?

She also appreciates that things evolve. They're not better or worse, they're just different, she says during an interview at her Times Square office. She's wearing a red cardigan, black trousers and flat black lace-up shoes.

"It's all very professional now. It's all very fast. Now time is money. There is so much money in this business now, but no one cared then because there wasn't so much money. But somehow we did find money for a three-week photo shoot. Now we're lucky to get people for three days," she says.

Coddington grew up in Wales, where her parents owned a small hotel on the

Runway roundup

Who are the best models to work with?

- **Grace Coddington:** "Everyone is so eager to move on to the next girl now, but THE supermodels (of the '80s and '90s) — brats that they might have been — had personality and were really good models. Now they're all too beautiful, too perfect, and they're little girls."

had lots of fun at night at the hippest cafes, even marrying celebrity restaurateur Michael Chow.

She made it through the swinging '60s, the disco era and a corporate job at Calvin Klein. However, as soon as Wintour, whom Coddington knew from the London fashion scene, took the helm at American Vogue, she settled in for the long haul, joining the magazine in 1988.

Coddington emerged as the unsung hero in the 2009 behind-the-scenes documentary *The September Issue* about the magazine and fashion industries; a champion of art over commerce, talent over celebrity.

Last year, Wintour threw Coddington a 70th-birthday bash. Guests included Marc Jacobs, Carey Mulligan, Seth Meyers and "tons of designers from New York and Europe; all my favourite models."

"Anna loves to give a party," says Coddington. "Do I like getting one? Yes and no. It's a nightmare the five minutes before you go in, but it's very flattering."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vogue's Grace Coddington drew scores of pencil-drawing illustrations that are featured in her new autobiography. STARPIX, MARION CURTIS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

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Don't be fooled — not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon

juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

1. Heat the oven to 425 F.

2. Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat

in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

4. Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

6. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

7. To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

Ingredients

12 portions
Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder

- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baked Lemon Doughnuts



These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Pick up, munch and repeat



Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge's *Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets* can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in *Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets* are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more.

METRO

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MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

LEXUS UNVEILS REWORKED LINEUP

Well, if what you get out of something is in direct proportion to what you put into it, then Lexus is about to reap some major rewards for a vastly reworked lineup, with two brand new models and a couple of others that have been beautifully updated for 2013.

This effort might come as a bit of a shock considering that Lexus and parent company Toyota were largely crippled during the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and resulting tsunami that laid waste to Japan's coastal cities. Clearly, Lexus is making up for lost time, so the flurry of activity actually seems about right.

The Toyota Camry-based ES is Lexus's go-to entry-luxury model, even though the sportier IS is less expensive. In this league, size counts for plenty and the longer, wider and roomier ES beats the pants off the IS in the space race.

For 2013, interior volume has increased with the addition of nearly five centimetres between the front and rear



Lexus ES 350

wheels. Considerable sparkle has been added to what had been a design that for years was unnecessarily understated. The 268-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 and six-speed automatic transmission carry over virtually unchanged from the 2012 edition, but what's really new is the ES 300h hybrid with its 156-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder gas engine that combines with a 141-horsepower electric motor to generate 200 net horsepower.

The hybrid borrows its powertrain from the Toyota Camry hybrid and represents a natural extension of the ES brand, especially since the recent demise of the Toyota Prius-based HS 250h sedan. The new rear-drive GS is larger and priced significantly higher than the ES. It's also helping lead Lexus out of the design doldrums where, along with many of its stable mates, the car has resided for the past number of years. Nothing overly

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

CT 200H: Four-door hatchback hybrid; \$32,900
ES 350: Mid-size sedan; \$41,000
GS 350: Mid-size sedan; \$53,200
IS 250: Compact sedan; \$36,250
IS-F: Quick-and-fast compact sedan; \$71,900
LS 460: Full-size sedan; \$85,000
LS 600h L: Full-size sedan; \$123,750

radical, mind you, since it shares many physical and mechanical components with its 2012 counterparts.

But front and rear revisions are obvious. Gone for 2013 is the V8 option, which leaves the GS 350 and its gasoline-electric hybrid GS 450h as the only available models.

The F Sport upgrade uses the same carryover 306-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 as the standard GS 350. Both feature a six-speed automatic transmission, however an extra level on the standard driver-selectable operating mode has been added that firms up the suspension and sharpens the steering for an overall sportier feel. F Sport and the GS 450h are offered in rear-wheel-drive only.

— wheelbasemedia.com

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NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT

LINCOLN MKZ STANDS OUT

The farther down the road Lincoln drives, the more it seems to come into its own as a source of elegant, but-not-too pricey wheels. The thoroughly altered 2013 MKZ stands out with its nothing-quite-like-it appearance.

The signature “waterfall” grille has been replaced by a series of horizontal bars that kind of resemble the shape of a flying bird with headlights at the tips.

But for real design drama you can’t beat the sweep of the roofline that flows well past the rear-most roof pillar, almost to the trailing edge of the body.

The car’s massive windshield and rear window glass, including the optional retractable panoramic sunroof, makes it



Lincoln MKZ

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

MKS: Full-size pickup, \$49,300
MKT: Full-size wagon, \$50,650
MKZ: Mid-size sedan; \$39,000 (est.)

doubtful passenger claustrophobia will pose a problem.

Inside is an ultra-sophisticated leather-covered and wood-trimmed interior plus

a floor console extending seamlessly almost the full length of the cabin. In back, optional inflatable seatbelts for outboard riders cushion their heads and necks in the event of frontal crash.

In the suspension department, continuously adjustable shock damping, power-assisted electric steering, variable transmission-shift-mapping plus traction and stability control all combine to form Lincoln Drive Control. The result, says Lincoln, is improved ride and handling in Normal, Sport, or Comfort modes, as selected by the driver. A push-button gear

selector next to the gauges replaces the traditional floor shifter.

Powerplant choices consist of a 240-horsepower, 2.0-litre four-cylinder “EcoBoost” (turbocharged) four-cylinder. Optional is a 300-horsepower, 3.7-litre V6 that Ford installs in vehicles as diverse as the Mustang two-door and F-150 pickup. For maximum fuel savings, the MKZ returns with a gasoline-electric hybrid fitted with a 141-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder combined with an electric motor worth a combined 188 horsepower. — wheelbasemedia.com

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and an aerodynamic design elegantly harmonize to create a long sweeping roofline, a modern profile and sleek lines that flow down to Lincoln's signature split-wing grille and LED headlamps.

Introducing the all-new 2013 Lincoln MKZ—the perfect blend of luxury and technology. Its exterior design exudes elegant simplicity from the fluid lines to the stunning available glass panoramic vista roof. The interior craftsmanship surrounds imaginative technologies with rich woods and available contemporary aluminum finishes that create a visually stunning environment.

Discover the all-new 2013 Lincoln MKZ at lincolncanada.com/2013MKZ

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Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Canadians by storm

Material world. When it comes to these American shopping days, Canadians are catching up — and they want tech, tech and more tech

Black Friday and Cyber Monday move north of the border?

Ask anyone in Canada about the biggest shopping day of the year and time and time again they'll tell you it's Boxing Day. If you ask the same question to our friends south

of the border, they'll tell you it's Black Friday and/or Cyber Monday.

Black Friday falls on the day following U.S. Thanksgiving and it offers shoppers promotional sales that help kick off the shopping season — it falls on Nov. 23 this year. Americans also participate in Cyber Monday to take advantage of exclusive online deals — it falls on Nov 26 this year.

Canadians expect deals on Black Friday

With such good deals, it's no wonder that Black Friday and Cyber Monday are taking Can-

adians by storm.

According to a recent survey by Staples Canada and Vision Critical, 84 per cent of Canadians now know about Black Friday and 48 per cent of Canadians now know about Cyber Monday. And, in fact, 60 per cent of Canadians now expect to get deals as good as they would get on Boxing Day on Black Friday and Cyber Monday as well.

More Canadians plan to shop on Black Friday

Though only 17 per cent of Canadians have shopped these days in previous years, 40 per cent say that they intend to shop on Black Friday and/or

Border crossing

In trying to keep Canadian shoppers on this side of the border, many retailers are slashing prices on Nov. 30 for our own Black Friday. However, a recent poll shows that one in 10 Canadians will be making the trip. If you're one of them, here's what you need to know: As of June 1, the duty-free exemptions for Canadians returning from trips abroad increased to \$200 from \$50 for a 24-hour stay. For 48 hours away or more, the limit was increased to \$800 per person, up from \$400. **METRO**

Cyber Monday this year.

After breaking these numbers down by gender, 42 per cent of men and 40 per cent of women are planning to shop on Black Friday and Cyber Monday this year.

They Want More Tech

So what will they be spending their money on? The answer is tech products. More than half of Canadians who are planning to

shop want to get the best prices on tech. In fact, a whopping 63 per cent plan to spend their hard earned money on technology, and of that number, 33 per cent plan to buy desktops, laptops and ultra-books, 29 per cent want to buy tablets and e-Readers, 28 per cent plan to purchase monitors and TVs, 20 per cent are looking at cameras and camcorders, 18 per cent want mobile and mobile accessories and 18 per cent want to buy video games. When Canadians were asked what products they were most interested in seeing, offers for, desktops, laptops and ultra-books were their top choice.

NEWS CANADA

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Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Shop till you drop. Each year, more Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us will join in north of the border

KATHY
ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray — the moniker reflects the fact that it puts retailers “in the black” for the year. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the



Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

Retail Council of Canada says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting. “Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontarians plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday,” Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying put.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question

isn't, “Where does the line start?” but, “What the heck?”

Well, obviously, there are the deals. “It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good price,” says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. “And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early

on Friday to go shopping.” (Note: Kutulakos admits she doesn't go in for lining up herself.)

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they ap-

pear scarce. Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available (to, say, the first 100 customers) are all ways retailers “manipulate scarcity cues” — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. “People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put

into getting that product,” says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is — for some shoppers — not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. “The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity.”

And, apparently, the need for a \$38 Blu-ray player.

Black Friday facts

- **Camping out.** Last year, a couple in Florida camped out on the sidewalk in front of a Best Buy for 12 days in order to be the first in line for Black Friday sales.
- **Buy Nothing Day.** Twenty years ago, Buy Nothing Day was created as an anti-consumerism alternative to Black Friday.
- **Holiday cheer?** Ninety per cent of Black Friday shoppers will be buying goods for themselves.
- **Online.** Sixteen per cent of Canadians will buy goods online from U.S. retailers on Black Friday.
- **Cyber Monday.** The term has become an international marketing term used by online retailers in the U.K., Portugal, Germany and Chile.
- **Turnout.** The National Retail Federation anticipates 134 million people will hit the stores this Thanksgiving weekend.

Decided to risk a Black Friday spree? Stay safe out there!

The Black Friday shopper's emergency first-aid kit

- **Rolls of gauze.** Extremely compact and light, yet strong enough to tie your trunk down, or a 42-inch television to the top of your car.
- **Adhesive bandages.** For credit-card blisters or paper cuts from coupons and flyers.
- **Finger splints.** Entering your debit-card PIN repeatedly can cause carpal tunnel syndrome.
- **Caffeine pills.** Sure, there might be a Tim's close enough for an emergency

run, but do you really want to risk your place in line?

- **Acetaminophen.** Even if you're not headache-prone, loudspeaker announcements and other shoppers yelling at their kids/into their phones/at line-cutters can take a toll.
- **Scotch in a hip flask.** In case all else fails.

Want the deals without the lines? Cyber Monday is a stressless alternative. And with a smartphone, you don't need to be at a computer, or even at home, you can do your shopping on your morning commute. A few great apps:

- **Black Friday Shopping (blackfriday.com, free):** Get breaking Black-Friday ads, link directly to 1,200 top retailers and get cash-back coupons
- **My Christmas List (99 cents):** Plan gifts for everybody on your list; set and stick to a budget; keep track of spending; compare prices and share your lists
- **Price Check Guru (free):** Enter any item to find the lowest online price and connect directly to that retailer to buy
- **PayPal (free):** Get pay for your purchases immediately without having to enter your credit card info every time.



If you want to get out there and shop till you drop, best that you get the lowdown on survival. GETTY IMAGES

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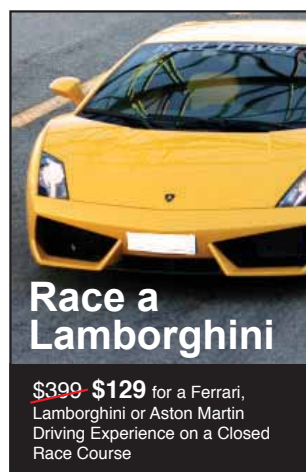
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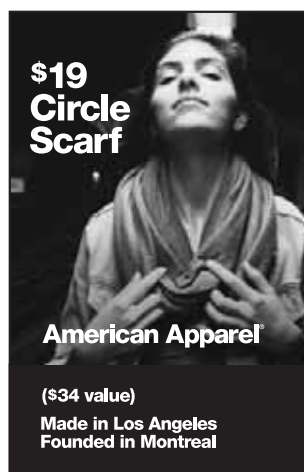
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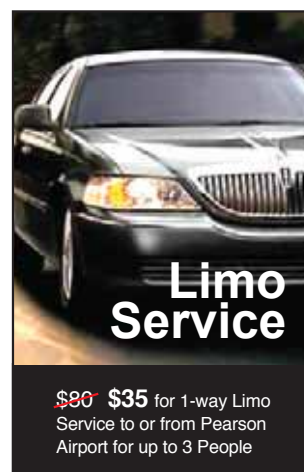
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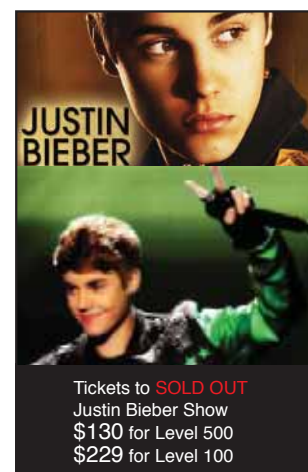
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Parade-worthy

Holiday kick-off

Since the late 19th Century, the day after Thanksgiving has been seen as the kick-off to Christmas shopping.

Department stores such as Macy's and Eaton's began hosting parades to launch the start of the first wave of Christmas advertisements. The first official parade was Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City in 1924.

'Tis the season

Retailers appeal to Roosevelt

In 1939, retailers appealed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to move Thanksgiving up by one week to stretch out the holiday shopping season.

It stayed this way for two years, until Congress stepped in and settled on Thanksgiving being the fourth Thursday of the month.

Market panic

Taking stock

The term Black Friday was first used in 1864 to describe the stock market panic set off by plunging gold prices. Though it's hard to confirm when it was first used to describe the shopping frenzy, most point to 1966, when the Philadelphia police department referred to it as Black Friday, describing the massive traffic jams and crowded sidewalks.

Set your alarm

Wake up! It's time to shop til you drop

In the '90s, retailers began opening their doors at 6 a.m., but in the late 2000s many had crept to as early as 5 a.m. or even 4 a.m.

By last year, several retailers opened at midnight for the first time.

Shopping SOS

Going mad in the name of a bargain: It's happened

In last year's frenzy, a worker at a Walmart in New York was trampled to death when the store opened its doors and two shoppers were shot in a dispute at a Toys R Us in California.

Cyber Monday

With the click of a mouse, you can find a deal

With online shopping surging, there's now a Cyber Monday, the Monday after Black Friday.

Coined in 2005 by Shop.org, Cyber Monday sees millions of people spending billions of dollars through online deals.

Five things not to buy on Black Friday. As a general rule, avoid these items



Some sales aren't worth taking advantage of on Black Friday. ISTOCK IMAGE

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Toys

Unless you want to ruin your daughter's life forever, scoop up that McKenna American Girl doll right away. But your average toy? Lindsay Sakraida, features director at Dealnews.com, says to hold off. "We see quite a few fairly decent toy deals, but things will get cheaper later in December," she says. "Unless it's a really hot item that you're after, wait for them to get cheaper in the two weeks before Christmas."

Name-brand electronics

TVs, digital cameras and laptops are huge Black Friday draws, but it's not necessarily the time to buy one. The generic brand TV that the big-box store is offering is, likely, a huge bargain, says Sakraida. But anything name brand — Sony, Samsung, Canon, etc. — will see its best price in the first couple months of 2013, right before the latest models hit shelves. The exceptions are Apple

products, says Sakraida. They don't usually go on sale, so take advantage of any promotion if you were planning to buy them this year.

Winter apparel

If you're shopping for yourself, wait. "You'll see a lot of good coupons — but if you're looking for something like a heavy down winter coat, you'll see a better price in January," says Sakraida.

Holiday decor

"When it comes to Christmas decorations, these are things they're hoping you'll just grab while you're out," says Sakraida. "Wait until it's closer to Christmas to get a better price."

Jewelry and watches

If you're shopping for gifts, go ahead and buy these on Black Friday. But if you're looking for yourself, wait until after the holidays to buy jewelry or watches, says Sakraida. These are popular gifts, so retailers aren't offering their best deals.

But use good judgment while you're at it.

Don't get caught in the frenzy and spend money erratically just because you find discounts



MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff

It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favourite stores to stay focused."

Keep your receipts

You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

Bum a ride

"I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention,



Black Friday should be a silly and fun way to kick off the holiday season. Don't overdo it. ISTOCK IMAGE

Quoted

"There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief, Gifts.com

it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals
Some deals, such as door-busters, are strictly in-store offers.

But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird

Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for your favourite store's doors to open isn't your idea of fun, sleep in and skip the door-

buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift personality quiz. It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

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In the heart of Liberty Village



Plaza's King West, a new condo and townhouse project in Liberty Village. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** King West condos
- **Builder.** Plaza
- **Location.** 75 East Liberty St.
- **Website.** pureplaza.com
- **Sizes.** From 576 to 1,401 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From \$345,900 to \$420,900

The project overview

Plaza's King West Centre, the newest condo and townhouse project in Liberty Village, is an entirely new take on luxury living. Larger, more spacious suites feature the highest quality appointments with fantastic views of Lake Ontario.

Location and transit

The nearby King Street streetcar line gets you downtown in minutes. The Exhibition GO train station is right there and drivers are adjacent to the Gardiner Expressway. Cyclists will enjoy being close to the Martin Goodman Trail.

In the neighbourhood

The heart of the Liberty Village community, you will be literally steps to a host of amenities including the 24-hour Dominion, Blockbuster Video, Lion's Head Irish Pub, an LCBO and a Starbucks, to name just a few.

Building amenities

Includes a 20,000 square foot courtyard fitness club and wellness centre, the magnificent rooftop lakeview club with breathtaking views and spectacular entertainment facilities including a movie screening room with seating for 30, two bowling alleys and a sports simulator room.

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BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.



Since 2003, BILD members have helped raise more than \$535,000 for Habitat, helping families achieve the dream of home ownership and take a leap towards prosperity. This is especially true for the Abdi-Kalif family, who has recently moved into their new Habitat home as BILD's 2012 partner family.

Kalif and his wife Balkisa immigrated to Canada in the early '90s, and had their first child, Eklas, in 1995. Since then, they have grown to a family of seven and could no longer handle living in one small apartment. Despite working hard every day, Kalif could not afford to move his family to a larger space due to a limited income. After attending an information session about Habitat, he decided to apply.

Last month, I had the pleasure of welcoming the family into their new Habitat home.

"This will be the first time my family will have lived in a house," Kalif told a small group as he received his keys. "To have a safe place for my family is a dream come true."

I'm looking forward to next year as we come up with new and exciting ways to help another partner family achieve their dream of home ownership.

With the kind of support BILD receives from its members, I have no doubt that it will be yet another successful year.

For the past nine years, our association has supported Habitat for Humanity Toronto — our community partner that works to end the cycle of poverty by building affordable homes for low-income families.

The partnership was a natural fit for BILD, seeing how we are both in the business of building quality, affordable homes. I was pleased to learn that Habitat practices the concept of "a hand up, not a handout," requiring all families to put in 500 hours of work, which includes working on job sites with volunteers or in one of Habitat's many ReStores.

BILD holds four major industry fundraisers in benefit of Habitat each year. Our latest effort, dubbed the Party for Humanity, has amounted to \$25,000. The event was attended by more than 450 industry professionals and 36 company sponsors, not to mention all the companies and individuals who donated prizes for the silent auction.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Downtown

Open House: Paintbox Condominiums in revitalized Regent Park, check it out at 500 Dundas St. E., Nov. 24 from 12 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-955-0559 OR VISIT DANIELSHOMES.CA

2. Forest Hill

New Releases: Imperial Plaza true lofts, head up to 111 St. Clair W., Nov. 24 to 25 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-925-2501 OR VISIT IMPERIALCONDOS.CA

3. Don Mills

Black Friday deal: Flaire condos at the Shops on Don Mills, presentation centre at 99 The Donway W., Nov. 24 to 25 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-445-8868 OR VISIT FLAIRECONDOS.COM

4. Bayview

Open House: The Burkebrook Town Manors, fully furnished models, 70 Kilgour Rd., Nov. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-489-7333 OR VISIT THEBURKEBROOKTOWNS.COM

Condo events roundup: Grand opening of the Paintbox Bistro at Regent Park



CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Paintbox Bistro gala opening
At their grand opening gala at the end of October in Regent Park, the Paintbox Bistro opened its doors to the Toronto public.

The bistro is housed in the art centre on Dundas Street East and is attached to the 26-storey Paintbox condominiums by Daniels Corporation.

Chef-owner Chris Klugman is no stranger to the Toronto culinary scene.

He was executive chef at Winston's and opened the Bistro 990 resto.

"This is not just a restaurant. It's also a catering firm, we're also a business development spot for local business initiatives, we're a training facility and we are, more than anything else, an opportunity to welcome the city to Regent Park," says Klugman.

Randy Farthing was the chef de cuisine and impressed the crowd that evening with a broad selection of hors d'oeuvres with help from Regent Park resident Che Yuen.

In addition to being a commercial restaurant, Paintbox Bistro is a social enterprise providing on-the-job training to residents in Regent Park as well as students from the George Brown Chef school.

The entertainment included Toronto jazz singer Tanika Charles and the Rob Christian Trio.

Burano Art exhibition

Some of Toronto's foremost artistic luminaries turned out recently to celebrate Glass Memory, Sandro Martini's contemporary fresco work at Burano condominiums on Bay Street.

The world-renowned Italian artist and Lanterra unveiled his spectacular work of abstract fresco in the grand glass lobby of the Burano condominium.

Lanterra CEO Barry Fenton has commissioned a number of public art contributions to the city.

"This'll be our ninth," he



Glass Memory, Sandro Martini's contemporary fresco work unveiled in the grand glass lobby at Burano condominiums on Bay Street. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO



Front lobby guests at a screening of Coast Modern previewed at the newly-renovated Bloor Hot Docs Cinema with over 500 guests in attendance. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO



Regent Park resident Che Yuen prepares dishes at the Paintbox Bistro's opening. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

says. "We've delivered to the street over 9,000 units. This is spectacular. We've always believed in setting out a lot of our efforts on public art. It's really part of the amenity space and part of the feeling of the whole building, so it's fantastic."

And the artist was impressed with the turnout.

"I'm really happy. Everybody is enjoying it as well. The first time we talked about this installation was six years ago. And then I started to really work on it about three years ago. It is a theatre of paintings," says Martini.

B.streets Hot Docs screening
in the Annex neighbourhood,

B.streets condos recently introduced its six exclusive Lane Homes at a screening of Coast Modern previewed at the nearby, newly-renovated Bloor Hot Docs Cinema with more than 500 guests in attendance.

The independent film featured its two directors travelling along the Pacific

North West coastline examining examples of high-end homes constructed to blend in with their natural surroundings.

On hand was Michael Klugmann, V.P. of Lindvest Properties, the developer of B.streets and a gold sponsor of the annual Hot Docs Festival.

"It's gratifying to see that we can make such a positive impact to a neighborhood which is already great, and we welcome this opportunity," he said.

Later in the evening, there was a surprise draw, including a couple of highly coveted 10-packs of Hot Docs 2013 Festival passes.

Out of country experience



LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

I recently sold my condo in Canada. I was in the U.K.

The transaction worked out with my lawyer and I was pleased when the funds arrived in my bank account in Canada.

I came back to Canada and my accountant asked

whether my lawyer had filed for a clearance certificate with the Canada Revenue Agency. I had no idea and now I am asking you.

Typically, you declare your residency for income tax purposes with your lawyer.

I guess the question is: Did you declare your residency with your paperwork?

If you stated you were a Canadian for income tax purposes, then your purchasers relied upon that declaration for tax purposes and there would be no need for a clearance

certificate.

The issue at the core of this is if your disclosed your residency status to your lawyer and if she/he made appropriate actions from that interaction.

This is a tricky area of the law and lawyers and accountants have to work

together to make sure that clients are on the right side of the tax man.

Please talk to your lawyer about this.

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the website at cowanlaw.ca



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Three big holiday decor trends



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

Use old ornaments

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.



Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.



Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.



Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

Shades of Grey

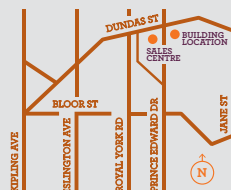
Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.



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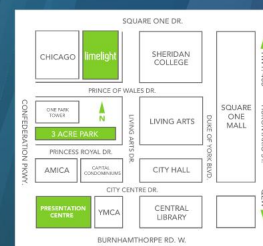
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Don't be afraid to pick up a drill, says Ana White. HANDOUT

DIY: Grab a hammer and build it yourself, says DIY blogger

At home. New book gives tips for 34 stylish and budget-friendly woodworking projects

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News in New York City

Ladies, forget buying a shelf — let alone getting a man to hang it up. DIY blogger Ana White says build one on your own.

The petite 32-year-old mom constructs furniture — such as a solid farmhouse bed and charming dining room hutch — in her home in Alaska and shares her easy-to-follow plans on her wildly popular furniture design site, ana-white.com.

Last month, she released her debut book, *The Handbuilt Home*, with instructions and tips for 34 (mostly new) stylish and budget-friendly woodworking projects.

For those afraid to pick up



The Handbuilt Home by Ana White

to me is as easy as a hand mixer — it rotates with an attachment. So I say, 'If you can beat eggs, you can use a drill.'"

Still not convinced? White recommends starting small. "Have your hardware store cut your boards so you're not dealing with a saw. Take them home, use a drill — but pretend it's a hand mixer — and make your first piece of furniture. You'll build up some confidence and go from there."

Aren't supplies expensive?

Most furniture that you buy is particle board. If you're to compare apples to apples, you can buy a 4-foot by 8-foot sheet of particle board big enough to make a bookshelf for \$17 at any hardware store. If you want to go up a grade, make it out of plywood, which high-quality cabinets are made out of. You could buy a sheet of it for \$50.

Why DIY?

White on why you should

DIY PROJECT GALLERY LEDGES

If you are anything like me, you like to accessorize your house.

You want to change things up with the seasons by adding fresh photos and decor. But you want this change to be easy and fast.

A simple gallery ledge allows you to keep your home updated season by season, holiday to holiday.

Create a wall of vacation memories or use these customizable ledges to display collectibles. In just a few hours, and for as many dollars, you can transform a blank wall into your favourite part of your home.

Shopping list:

1x4: 2 in (61cm) per every foot (30.5cm) of ledge
1x2: 1 in (30.5cm) per every foot (30.5cm) of ledge
Wood glue
2 in (5cm) nails or screws or 1 1/4 in (3cm) pocket hole screws
3 in (7.5cm) screws or picture-hanging bracket
Finishing supplies

Tools:

Basic hand tools
Finish nailer or pocket hole jig or drill with countersink bits

Stud finder (optional)
Level

Cutting list:

2 1x4s at desired ledge length
1 1x2 at desired ledge length

Directions:

1. Back: If you are using pocket holes, drill 3/4 in pocket holes every 6 in (15 cm) to 8 in (20.5 cm) along both edges of the bottom of the shelf. Attach the back with glue and 1 1/4 in (3 cm) pocket hole screws. For nails and countersunk screws, use ample glue and attach the bottom board to the back with 2 in (5 cm) screws or nails.

2. Front: The front trim is both decorative and functional. It will keep your displays from falling off the narrow ledge. Attach it with either glue and 2 in (5 cm) finish nails or pocket hole screws if you drilled holes in the first step. Keep all edges flush to the bottom.

3. Hanging: To hang the ledges, locate the studs in your wall with a stud finder (optional) and mark them. Position the ledges on your wall, marking the location of studs on the back of the ledge. Pre-drill holes into the back

of the gallery ledge, matching the stud location. Using 3 in (7.5 cm) screws through the pre-drilled holes, attach the back of the gallery ledge to the studs in the wall. Use a level to ensure your shelves are straight. Alternatively, you can use a picture-hanging bracket to hang the shelves.

TIP: If you hang more than one shelf, leave approximately 15 in (38cm) between the two levels of shelves to allow for photos and other artwork.

4. Planning your ledges: These ledges are simple to build, but you will want to plan out the length of your ledges to fit your wall space. Choosing lengths of 24 in (61cm), 32 in (81 cm), 48 in (122cm), and 96 in (244 cm) conserve the boards best. Lengths less than 24 in (61 cm) can present hanging challenges.

TIP: Use painter's blue tape to mark out the location and length of your shelves on the wall. Adjust until you have found the perfect length.

TIP: Consider staggering shelves for added interest and to accommodate objects of varying heights.



With a ledge, you can easily change photos to update your decor. HANDOUT

make your own furniture:

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Everybody wants to save some money, right? When you build furniture, you save upward of 90 per cent off retail.

That's why I started building my own. I said, "I'm a mom. We have a tight budget, where can I be the most effective?" I found that furniture was where I could create the biggest return for my time.

You're the boss

When you DIY, you say what goes in your home. You can say, "I want this colour. I want it to fit this space. I have a small apartment, I want a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf that fits perfectly." If you're buying something, you're stuck dealing with what is in season or in style.

It's green

You can make your project greener. You can say, "I want a really high indoor air quality in my home, so I'm going

to choose formaldehyde-free materials. I'm going to use low VOC paint and make our home healthier as well." You can also say, "I don't want to contribute to landfills." When I make my own furniture, there's no packaging involved. I just go to Home Depot and get some raw boards and build something. I don't have to figure out a way to dispose of this packaging or think about the furniture being shipped overseas and then shipped back to manufacturing plants and distribution centres.



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Just chalk it up to better style

DIY ideas. Old-school chalkboard is making a stylish comeback

Everyone's life needs a bit of organization — so why not do it with some fun and whimsy?

For a new way to get organized, think charming and unique. Think chalkboard paint.

Take a look at these creative tips to make your home organized, stylish and enjoyable:

Definable drawers

Is your home being over-run with clutter?

The best way to overcome clutter — and keep it tidy — is to ensure everything has its place. Labelling is a great way to stay organized and alert family members to where items are — and where to put them away. Using stickers and markers for identification can sometimes look plain and boring and are a little too permanent. Luckily, there is another way to label — chalkboard paint.

Drawers are ideal for stor-

age and come in a variety of sizes to store anything from toys to jewelry. Plus, you can find great deals on old sets at yard sales or thrift stores.

To start, simply clean and paint your drawers in a colour that coordinates with your room's decor.

Once the paint is dry, create a border around the front of each drawer with painter's tape. Next, spray several even coats of the Krylon product called chalkboard spray paint inside the taped area.

When the entire project is dry, use chalk to identify the contents of each drawer. And, don't limit yourself to white chalk. Coloured chalk can add a stylish twist to your project.

Paint the clock

To organize your schedule — or your whole family's — keep track of time with a fun and creative schedule clock.

This unique project replaces traditional hours and minutes with your daily activities.

Start by finding a large, flat, wall-hanging clock and carefully remove the hands. Then, apply a coat of the indoor/outdoor charcoal black



From drawers to clocks, chalk can make your home stylish and organized. NEWS CANADA

primer to cover the entire clock, making it the same even colour. Once the primer has dried, apply three coats of the Chalkboard Spray Paint.

Finally, when the clock is fully dry, re-attach the clock hands and finish by designating certain hours for your daily tasks.

This project is especially

ideal for young children who don't yet know how to tell time. Simply use drawings to help them know when it is time for their activities and you'll avoid the everyday

question of, "Is it time yet?"

Labels for entertaining tables

When entertaining guests, you want them to feel welcome and at home — and adding personal messages or labels can be the solution to put your party over the top.

Chalkboard paint can be the perfect addition to many of your go-to entertainment pieces. Spray the base of your wine glasses and label with guests' names to keep track of drinks.

Spray the fronts of buckets, bowls or canisters to call out their contents. Spray a large platter or board to create a welcome sign or menu for your guests.

The ideas are endless. And, for an extra decorative touch, use Krylon leafing pens to create whimsical designs around your creations.

Soon your home will feel more organized and stylish with these easy and delightful craft ideas. And the best thing about the chalkboard finish is that you can constantly change it up. Simply erase and write something new. NEWS CANADA

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Holidays

Time to get your dishes ready!

Dear Mr. Butler, With both American Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, what can I do to deal with some of my chipped antique dishes to get ready for the holidays? -Signed, Holiday Lady



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com



Determine what kind of entertaining you will be doing this season before stocking up on inventory. ISTOCK IMAGES

What an organized woman you are. Good on you for thinking ahead.

First, you need to know how many people you will be entertaining over the holidays. Will you be having sit down meals or simpler cocktail party gatherings?

Once you know what kind of entertaining you will be doing and how many people you'll be hosting, look through your cupboards to see what you have and what you may want to use.

With your inventory in hand, you now need to find some retailers who specialize in selling single pieces of an-

tique china.

Some cities have great antique markets. For the rest of us who either don't have these antique stores handy or can't find the pieces we need, there are some great online solutions.

I have found three companies that may be able to help you out, and I have used one of them in particular with great success.

The three most popular companies for china replacements are: replacements.com, chinalane.com and pattern-search.ca.

Remember, these are generally expensive. These sites

are a great way to replace one or two broken items like a chipped coffee cup or cracked plate.

But if you plan to purchase an entire inventory, this is by far the most expensive route and one that I would not advise.

Here's a tip!

Remember, anything you have not used in the past year should have a quick wash with hot water and dish soap to get rid of any dust before you use it.

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Pay it forward with chic gifts that support charities this year

Holidays. Gift giving feels good but it's even better if you know your purchaser is helping someone less fortunate

A number of home decor retailers partner with charitable organizations — many do so year round, with additional initiatives during the holiday season.

As you're making your list this year or primping your own home for the holidays, you might consider giving something that not only looks good but supports good causes.

At pillowdreamsproject.com, a fair-trade business started by Denver-based Renee Rietmeijer and Laura Tilley, you'll find silk, cotton or hemp throw-pillow cases from South Africa,

Vietnam and Thailand. Prices range from \$25 to \$40 per case; sales from the Vietnamese ones support KOTO, which provides hospitality work training for homeless teens, while sales from the South African cases benefit the Open Arms orphanage in Malawi.

Accept and Be is the sentiment expressed on a limited-edition, graffiti-esque poster printed in pigmented inks and available at CB2 for \$16.95, with all sales going to the Trevor Project, a national non-profit that focuses on suicide prevention among gay youth.

The retailer has been involved for several years with San Francisco's Creativity Explored, a collective of developmentally disabled artists. Each season presents a different collection of home accessories, and this fall there is an interesting variety of soft goods, plates

and prints, including Anne Connelly's vibrant, impressionistic colour field rug and Selene Perez's charming trio of owls printed on white cotton velvet.

CB2 also aims to donate 500,000 meals through food banks nationwide this holiday season. Each interaction with the retailer, online or in person, with or without a purchase, will count toward the goal.

Rural Peruvian women crafters are supported by Crate & Barrel, which is selling the artisans' winsome holiday ornaments. A trio of plump little penguins or owls (\$29.95) and a quartet of woodland creatures (\$39.95) are hand-knit from alpaca blend wool.

For travellers and animal lovers on your list, have a look at Carol Stevenson's hauntingly intimate photographic prints of elephants, taken at a sanctuary in Thailand, at the-

travellerscollection.com. Sales of the signed, numbered, limited-edition works benefit the Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation.

If you'd like to peruse a larger variety of gifts, check out giftsthatgive.com. Hundreds of home decor and design houses, including Jonathan Adler, Simon Pearce, Lily Pulitzer and Michael Aram, are represented on the site, and \$1 out of every \$5 goes to the cause of your choice — among them, Cancer Care, Lupus Foundation and Save the Whales.

For a romantic gift, consider a boudoir pillow from Anne Koch's washable silk braille collection for kumi kookoon. Each is embellished with the phrase "I love you" in braille applique, and a percentage of sales goes to the American Foundation for the Blind.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Alpaca Snowy Owl ornaments made of soft alpaca blend wool by rural Peruvian women. Crate and Barrel collaborated on the collection with a fair trade group that helps the women earn money to support and sustain their families.

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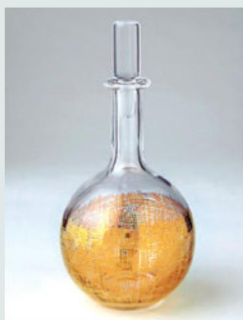
metro

Heading to a holiday party? Don't show up empty-handed

Everyone brings wine for the hostess. She's not complaining, but you can do better.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

If you're a holiday houseguest, you may want to bring more than a trinket. DwellStudio's globe decanter will keep your guests' table sparkling long after the holidays are over. \$175, dwellstudio.com.



If you're bringing a bottle, make it extra special with a bow stopper from the Martha Stewart Collection. \$40, macys.com.

Pier One Imports' nature-inspired ornaments are a welcome treat for any tree. Owl (\$5) and star (\$6), pier1.com.



Add a little peace and quiet with VivaTerra's olive plant topiary. \$49, vivaterra.com.

Honey is always a sweet hostess gift. Bee Raw's adorable "tasting flights" are available in wildflower, fruit, cheese-friendly and rooftop-harvested assortments. \$45, beeraw.com.



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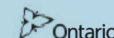
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Discovering backyard living

Zoning. Homeowners building cottages for parents, guests or just more space

Something small is afoot. Backyard cottages — from 800-square-foot bungalows to Lilliputian studio cabins — are springing up behind houses

in many cities, some of which have changed zoning laws to accommodate them.

Often, the cottages are built for aging parents or grown children. Sometimes, they're rented out for extra income, or are used as studios or offices.

"Backyard cottages increase density in a nice way," says Bruce Parker, principal of the Seattle-based design col-

lective Microhouse. "They use existing infrastructure and ... they're inherently sustainable. A cottage is the antithesis of a big house on a tiny lot."

Seattle updated its zoning laws in 2009 to allow for "accessory dwelling units" on single-family lots of at least 4,000 square feet. (Permits are needed depending on the size of the cottage and whether it has plumbing and electricity.)

While Parker had been designing small homes for several years, the microhouse law inspired him to focus on backyard dwellings. Soon, he was teaching classes on backyard cottages with the Seattle firm NCompass Construction.

About 90 per cent of his students, he said, wanted to build a cottage for their parents.

"Rather than paying thousands of dollars a month for

assisted living, you can have your parents with you and they can help with the kids — but everyone gets their own space," says Parker.

Often, it's the parents who pay to build the cottages. "It's an investment for their comfort and a way to improve their children's property," says Parker. "One pragmatic woman told me she hoped her great-granddaughter would use it for college housing after she was gone."

In Portland, Ore., which changed zoning rules in 2010 to allow for backyard cottages, Jasmine Deatherage and her mother, Diane Hoglund, looked for a house with a large yard specifically with this living arrangement in mind.

"We really wanted to live together," says Deatherage. "I have a two-year-old and my mom will be taking on some of the childcare. It's a special time to live together."

Before her mother bought the house, they asked the previous owner to build a basic single-car garage, which they plan to convert into a fully functioning mother-in-law cottage by next summer.

While not every young family would opt to have their parents so close, Deatherage notes that it's common historically and globally. "My husband is from Mexico where it's very normal to live with your family," she says. "His whole family lives together and if we lived there we'd live with them too."

For other homeowners, backyard cottages are an opportunity for small-scale entrepreneurship.

Bob DiPalma of Burlington, Vt., didn't set out to run

a mini-hotel out of his yard, but the project "crept up on me." While rehabilitating their 100-year-old barn, he and his wife saw the opportunity to convert the space into an apartment above a garage. They drew up designs, hired a contractor and soon had a fully-functioning vacation rental.

"Over the last four years, we've had really wonderful guests who have appreciated the space," DiPalma says.

Sometimes, the need for more space is just a need for more space.

"So many people are working from home," says Gayle Zalduondo, principal of the Miami-based Cabin Fever, which sells prefab cabins. "Rather than going off-site, they're adding a cabin. People need more space, but they're not comfortable upsizing to a larger house, especially in this economy."

Some of her customers want a guest house, while others are artists, musicians and independent service providers — from freelance graphic designers to massage therapists.

Unlike the fully outfitted miniature homes being used for rental properties and mother-in-law quarters, small backyard cabins without kitchens and bathrooms do not require permits in many states.

"We have a model you can build in a weekend," says Zalduondo. "It comes flat-packed. It's tight and weather-proofed and you don't even need to pour a full slab. You can just prepare a lightweight foundation and put the cabin on top of it." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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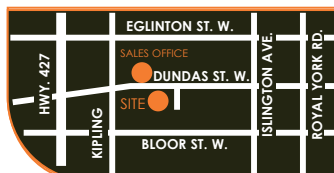
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"Rather than paying thousands of dollars a month for assisted living, you can have your parents with you and they can help with the kids — but everyone gets their own space".

Bruce Parker, principal of the Seattle-based design collective Microhouse



A prefabricated cabin is used as a backyard artist studio as shown in Pasadena, Calif. The Zip model by Cabin Fever in Miami, Fla. comes flat-packed and can be assembled in just a few days. **GAYLE ZALDUONDO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/CABIN FEVER**

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Prep power tools now to help ensure trouble-free starts in the spring

Gardening. Make sure your tools are ready for next season

You can avoid the silent treatment from your power tools in the spring by providing some tender loving care before storing them in the fall.

Gasoline-powered garden gear isn't guaranteed to start when it's left idle for extended periods of time, say 30 days or more. A thorough cleaning is essential.

"The first thing you want to do is take a blower and clean everything off — the leaves and debris that have built up over the growing season," said Mike Ballou, a product manager with John Deere. "This is the time for maintenance."

Don't delay taking equipment to a dealer if you don't have the time or inclination to do the work yourself, Ballou said. Not only will that extend its working life but it also will save you time and money.

"What a lot of dealers do is have service specials in the wintertime to attract customers," he said. "Otherwise, there's a two-week backup in the spring because everyone tends to put things off."

Some steps you can take now to ensure your tools are ready when the weather warms up again:

- Change the oil and spark plugs in gasoline-powered equipment before storing it away.

- Dump leftover fuel into your vehicles. The shelf life for gasoline generally is 30 to 60 days, Ballou said. "Run your equipment until all the old fuel is gone, and then add fresh (fuel) along with some fuel stabilizer. Let that run five minutes or so, giving it enough time to cycle through the carburetor. That prevents sludge from forming and gumming up the fuel system."

- Disconnect the batteries. "Every two months, put them on a charger and charge them back to full," Ballou said. "At that point, you've done what you need to ensure they'll start again in the spring."

Here are some additional

Quoted

"Every two months, put (the batteries) on a charger and charge them back to full. At that point, you've done what you need to ensure they'll start again in the spring."

Mike Ballou, product manager with John Deere
On power tool maintenance

tips to ease seasonal garden chores:

- Buy an extra set of lawn mower blades and another chain for your chainsaw. "That way, you'll always have one on hand while the dull blades are being balanced and sharpened," Ballou said.

- Clean or replace air filters to aid engine combustion.

- Store your equipment and fuel in a clean, dry place, said Randy Scully, national service manager for STIHL Inc., a manufacturer of chainsaws and other handheld equipment. "That helps prevent rust and corrosion."

- Lubricate and tighten moving parts. That includes wheel bearings and throttle cables. Tillers, mowers, string-cutters and chain saws take terrible beatings and tend to loosen up over time.

- "Anything that's not quite right or broken, get it repaired," Scully said. "Clean away oil that's dripped onto handles or working surfaces for safety."

- Get to know your product instruction manual, Scully said. "It has complete listings of things in there about what should be checked and how often."

John Deere, STIHL and many other manufacturers have begun emphasizing easier-to-maintain designs for do-it-yourself equipment operators.

"For example, no tools are needed for changing the oil in our newer garden tractors," Ballou said. "We're trying to make things simple to extend their working life."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Power tools used to winterize a garden in Langley, Wash. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE EPICUREAN HAS CITY'S BEST RESTAURANTS NEARBY, GOURMET KITCHENS

Monarch has been creating exceptional communities since 1917 that buyers can be proud of. The Epicurean is a chic new condo in Etobicoke's South Kingsway and is the latest development opening soon.

SAMPLE THE EPICUREAN

The sleek designs and superb location at Prince Edward Drive and Dundas Avenue are inspired by local surroundings, offering sophisticated urbanites the best of both worlds.

The fully equipped gourmet kitchen-

ens are fashioned after the city's finest chefs. Already one of Etobicoke's South Kingsway's most desirable neighbourhoods, the area has become a haven for foodies and many of the city's best restaurants. When choosing to live at The Epicurean, you can follow your inner foodie to taste flavours from around the world at some of the finest restaurants within walking distance or enjoy shopping at one of the many specialty food shops.

Suites range from studios, to two-bedroom and den starting in the \$300,000s.

The eight-storey boutique style condo, designed by Graziani & Corazza, offers suites that are designed to maximize use of light and space with balconies or terraces with outdoor entertaining areas. Interior designs offer open-plans with nine- or 10-foot ceilings, contemporary designed gourmet kitchens with pantry or islands, choice of granite or quartz countertops with ceramic or porcelain backsplashes, and brand-name stainless-steel appliances.

Savour the flavour of your favourite foods with a Chef's Table Demo Kitchen, in the designer decorated special occasion party room, which opens on to a private outdoor area with barbecue facilities and an organic herb garden. The Vintage Lounge will be a popular gathering spot

for private wine-tasting events, with its chic décor. Enjoy your creations in the private Entrée Dining Room, an ideal setting to make any occasion memorable. Top off your event in the Popcorn Theatre, with cinema-style seating, big-screen viewing, projector and surround sound.

After a day of entertaining, residents can melt the calories away in the Crunch Gym, with a cardio area, commercial-grade fitness equipment and more.

In celebrating its 95th year anniversary, Monarch is offering special incentives. Contact the sales representative for details. To make a reservation, contact the sales centre at 4195 Dundas St. W., or call 416 495-3530. For directions, visit monarchgroup.net.

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After 95 years, Monarch consistently ranks among the top homebuilders in the

Greater Toronto Area with more than 3,000 homes currently in production and awaiting occupancy. Monarch entered into the high-rise sector in 1995, and since then has completed more than 10,000 units. It has built 29 condo projects families have been proud to call home.

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Monarch operates in Ontario, where the company builds and develops single-family detached and attached homes in Toronto and Ottawa, and builds high-rise condominiums in the Greater Toronto Area.

Monarch serves a wide segment of homebuyers through its innovative product mix that emphasizes exceptional style, design, quality and livability. Monarch, combined with its U.S. affiliate,

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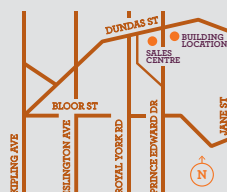
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Trying to find the greenest Christmas tree?

What's greener, a real or artificial Christmas tree?
-Minnie of Vancouver



QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green is your carbon footprint? The question about the greenest Christmas tree has been one of considerable debate among environmentally conscious merry-makers for the past decade.

Both sides have made valid points: advocates of artificial trees take issue with the practice of cutting down trees in

the name of festivity, whereas proponents of real trees argue that it's pretty much impossible for a plastic alternative to be green.

The research team at Ellipsos has provided a definitive answer. In its study, the real tree emerges victorious.

According to Ellipsos, the artificial tree has three times more impact on climate change and resource depletion than the natural tree. That's assuming your artificial tree lasts six years. If your tree will last more than 20 years and if you'd have to drive a long way to buy a real tree, the opposite becomes true.

Regardless of whether you choose real or artificial, there

are ways to make sure your evergreen is truly green:

Real Christmas Trees

1. Buy locally.
2. Choose trees from farms that minimize (or do without) pesticides and herbicides.
3. Cut your own with a provincial permit, from lands that must be kept clear anyway. In many provinces, hydro right-of-ways have to be kept clear. This is a win-win way to meet that mandate.

Artificial Christmas Trees

1. Avoid PVCs — the grinchiest of plastics — that most artificial trees are made of. Not only are these hard on the environment, they're bad for your health.

2. Make it last 20 years!

Should neither of these options live up to your desire for a truly sustainable celebration, consider a living Christmas tree. Potted evergreens are just as festive as their cut counterparts! And the recent appearance of rental companies dealing in potted evergreens makes this a hassle-free option even for folks who forgot to dig their tree a hole before the ground froze.

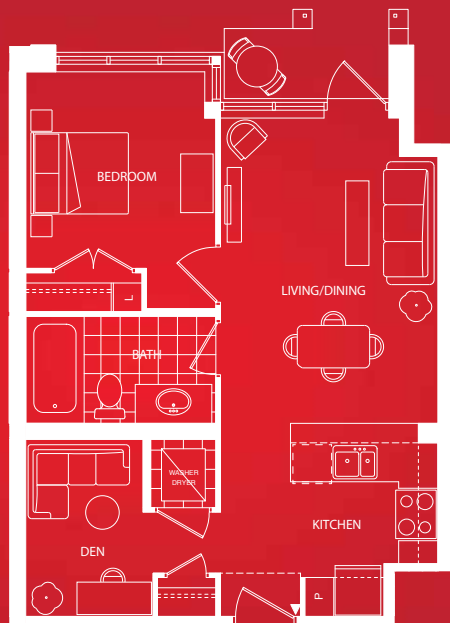
Next Thursday, we'll talk green strategies to decorate that green Christmas tree.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidsuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG



If you're set on buying a real Christmas tree, consider cutting your own tree from lands that must be clear anyway — a win-win. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Grey Cup

Argos coach doesn't want players to score before game day

Scott Milanovich wants the Toronto Argonauts to control their libido during Grey Cup week.

The Argos rookie head coach says he doesn't want his players scoring off the field prior to the big game. Toronto takes on the Calgary Stampeders for the CFL championship Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But he also has a personal reason for taking this approach.

"I have two young daughters at home right now that are probably watching this press conference, so my take on it is going to be 'I believe in abstinence,'" Milanovich said Wednesday, answering what has become the traditional last question of the Grey Cup coaches' news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grey Cup

Politicians make friendly wagers

The bets are coming from all corners as the Toronto Argonauts and the Calgary Stampeders get ready to square off in Sunday's 100th Grey Cup game.

Alberta Premier Alison Redford has bet Premier Dalton McGuinty that the Stamps will be victorious in the CFL championship in Toronto.

The losing province will have to donate 100 warm clothing items to a charitable group of the winning premier's choice.

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Mayor Rob Ford have agreed that the losing leader — wearing the opponent's jersey — will donate his weight in food to the winning city's food bank.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grey Cup

Mascot may have shot to trot at Rogers Centre

The Calgary Stampeders may have their lucky mascot Quick Six at the Grey Cup after all.

Grey Cup organizers had said due to the game-day setup, there would be no room for Quick Six to gallop safely when Calgary faces the Toronto Argonauts at Rogers Centre on Sunday.

A CFL spokesman says the league is trying to accommodate Quick Six.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM John Hufnagel, left, and Toronto Argonauts head coach Scott Milanovich pose with the Grey Cup on Wednesday in Toronto. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hufnagel dares to touch Grey Cup

CFL. Despite 22-year age difference, Stampeders and Argos coaches share many similarities

Quoted

"I think my name's on it."

Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM John Hufnagel on why he bucked tradition by touching the Grey Cup. Hufnagel has won the cup, most recently in 2008 with Calgary.

John Hufnagel bucked Grey Cup tradition Wednesday.

As he and Toronto Argonauts rookie head coach Scott Milanovich stood on opposite sides of the Grey Cup, the Calgary Stampeders head coach and GM grabbed one of its silver handles. That gesture caused a stir among reporters in attendance because coaches have traditionally refrained from touching the hallowed trophy until they've won it on the field.

But Hufnagel had no

problem bucking that trend because he has won the Grey Cup, most recently in 2008 with Calgary.

Milanovich stood next to the trophy, close enough that his reflection could be seen in it. But he refrained from touching it despite earning Grey Cup rings in 2009 and '10 as an assistant coach with the Montreal Alouettes.

"We decided, as a team, that we weren't going to touch it," Milanovich said.

Why?

"Tradition," he said.

Despite a 22-year age difference, Milanovich and Hufnagel share many similarities. They both hail from Pennsylvania, played quarterback collegiately as well as in the NFL and CFL, earned championship rings north of the border as assistants and are in this year's game after leading their teams to second-place finishes in their respective divisions.

Hufnagel, 61, got into coaching as a player-coach

with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in '87 before becoming a full-time coach the following season. But coaching was in Milanovich's blood as a youngster as his father, Gary, was a former assistant football coach in Butler, Pa.

Hufnagel said no one should be surprised to see two former quarterbacks in the Grey Cup as head coaches.

"It is a passing league, you have to have a real good understanding of pass offense and pass protection but don't neglect the running game," he said. "Usually the quarterback does have a little bit of a head start in that area."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL. Argos hope to stuff Cornish a 3rd time this season

Stuffing CFL outstanding player candidate Jon Cornish twice this season is a pleasant memory for the Toronto Argonauts defence.

Whether they can stop the Calgary Stampeders' star running back a third time in the Grey Cup game Sunday will be another story.

"It was so long ago that we played them," linebacker Marcus Ball said Wednesday. "Cornish is stampeding through the league right now, so it's going

to be a challenge to try to stop those guys. But we're up for it."

The Argos beat the Stampeders in both of their meetings, extending their winning streak against Calgary to five games since 2010. But none of that will matter when the teams line up for the championship game at Rogers Centre.

Toronto won 39-36 in Calgary on July 7, holding Cornish to 39 yards on seven carries. They beat the Stamps 22-14 at home on Aug. 18, when the

league's rushing leader got 43 yards on 12 attempts. That 4.2 yards per carry is well below his 5.6-yard average for the season and was a drop in the bucket of his 1,457 rushing yards for a year, a record for a Canadian.

Against most defences, Cornish's blend of speed and power is more than a handful. In playoff games against Saskatchewan and British Columbia, Cornish ran for 109 and 112 yards respectively.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jon Cornish on Wednesday in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 SPORTS



Grinnell's Jack Taylor goes to the basket during Tuesday's game, in which he scored 138 points, in Grinnell, Iowa. CORY HALL/GRINNELL COLLEGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Sir Jack' talk of hoops world after 138-point game

NCAA. NBAers abuzz after 'video-game'-like outburst in Division III

How did Grinnell's Jack Taylor wind up with 138 points in a game?

Well, he did miss 56 shots, more than he made. And he didn't play for four minutes.

Otherwise he would have scored even more.

As it was, Taylor shattered the NCAA scoring record by 25 points Tuesday in the Pioneers' 179-104 victory over Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Taylor hoisted a mind-boggling 108 shots, one every 20 seconds. Layups, fadeaways and three-pointers (27 of those) were all working in a display that had NBA royalty buzzing.

"It's like a video game," Carmelo Anthony said. "How can you shoot 108 times?"

LeBron James added: "It's

unbelievable, honestly. There's two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid, I want to see him, too. Sir Jack."

Wilt Chamberlin's record of 100 points scored in 1962 still stands as the NBA mark.

Taylor himself was still trying to catch his breath Wednesday.

"Honestly, it's still not settling in. It was hard to sleep," Taylor told The Associated Press.

Understandably so. Taylor is just a five-foot-10, 170-pound sophomore from Black River Falls, Wis. How did he score more points than anyone in college history?

Well, he had 58 at halftime. And then he scored 30 more in the first nine minutes of the second half, draining seven straight threes at one point.

The Division III record was the first to fall, as Taylor reached 91 points on a 25-footer from the left wing with 11:14 to

Record-setting system

The three-pointer is the shot of choice at Grinnell and the four guys who don't shoot crash the boards.

- The Pioneers also press relentlessly on defence, forcing turnovers and quicker shots from opponents.

- The style also demands fresh legs and the Pioneers typically substitute every 60 seconds of so.

go. He cracked 100 on a layup less than three minutes later, and with 4:42 to go he drained yet another three to pass the NCAA record of 113 set by Rio Grande's Bevo Francis against Hillsdale in 1954.

Taylor made 27 of 71 three-pointers and was 52 of 108 overall. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA

L.A. acting job costs Evans \$5K

Brooklyn Nets forward Reggie Evans has become the first player to be fined for flopping by the NBA, penalized \$5,000 US for a second offence.

Evans was punished after exaggerating light contact from the Lakers' Metta World Peace in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, nearly crashing into a referee standing along the sideline a few feet away.

Evans had received a warning for going down with little or no contact while battling for a rebound against Boston on Nov. 15.

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Nets forward Reggie Evans
GETTY IMAGES FILE

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NHLPA, NHL 'still far apart'

Lockout. Union moves toward league in revenue sharing as talks resume in New York

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid response from the NHL. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning

the same type of economic system.

"There was some movement in our direction and it was appreciated," said Bettman. "We're still far apart. But hopefully there's some momentum so we can bring this to a conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with \$393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout. Two weeks ago, the league offered \$211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.



Gary Bettman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous move in the owners' direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful."

Until now, the union had been pushing for a system that would see players paid a fixed amount of revenue each season

rather than receiving a percentage of it. However, the new offer included some safeguards to ensure they'd be protected in the event league revenues stalled, including a clause that states the players' share can't drop from year to year.

The new NHLPA offer included a rule that would punish teams who sign players to long-term, back-diving contracts — something the league has identified as an important issue. It also called for players making more than \$1 million in the minors to have their salary count against the salary cap.

However, the union chose not to adopt the NHL's proposed changes to unrestricted free agency, entry-level deals and salary arbitration, among other things. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins' management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that sent Buehrle, all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared \$146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a statement issued Wednesday through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me

Quoted

"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."



New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle in a statement issued Wednesday

and looking forward to moving on with my career."

Buehrle signed a \$58-million, four-year deal with the Marlins during their unprecedented spending spree a year ago.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

♏ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

♐ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

♑ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

♒ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

♓ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

♈ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

Across

1. Children's game
4. Decide on
7. Rich tasty dinner
11. Small inlets
13. Prefix meaning recent
14. Roof gutter
15. Spat
17. Cat or dog
18. Egyptian Sun God
19. Cattle
22. Moves slightly
26. Bible pt.
27. Danson of Cheers
28. Mate for Ma
30. Highway exits
34. Spanish cheer
35. AM or FM instrument
37. Served at Archie Bunker's Place
38. Fridge maker
40. Type measure
41. Meadow
42. Roman two
43. Basement
46. Fashion designer McCartney
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Blue Bloods actor Selleck
52. Microbes
58. Ticklish muppet
60. Pitcher's stat.
61. Vampire novelist: Anne —
62. Cruel or nasty
63. Served with crumpets
64. Actor James Van — Beek

Down

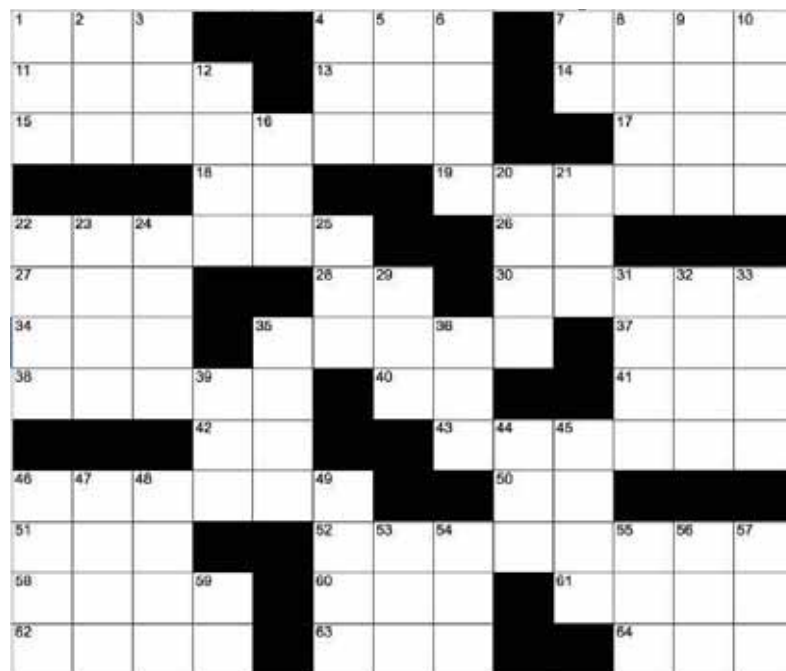
1. — la la
2. Atmosphere
3. Joke
4. — Tree Hill
5. Writing implement

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



BY BETTY MARTIN

6. Children
7. Wind direction (abbr.)
8. Pre-record
9. For always
10. Dampens
12. Ride the waves
16. Gymnastics equipment
20. Bull
21. Airport info.
22. Portico
23. Rudder
24. Brainstorm

25. Health club
29. Summer refreshment
31. Teen hangout
32. Beg
33. Brand
35. Method of transport
36. Company abbr.
39. Nothing
44. Sit down to a meal
45. Ogle
46. Flower part
47. Entice

48. Stone or Watson
49. Help in a robbery
53. — You Afraid of the Dark?
54. Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.)
55. Toss out
56. Drink cooler
57. — Lingus
59. "— Golden Pond"

Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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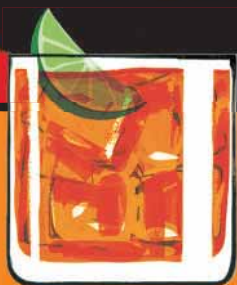
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